The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 35, No. 12, December 2003

Carolina Country

How to live to be 100

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More Gift Ideas From the Carolina Country Store — Pages 26-27

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Volume 35, No. 12, December 2003

features

10 **FIRST IN FLIGHT CENTENNIAL**
Here's what's happening Dec. 12-17 on the Dare County grounds of the nation's first successful powered flight 100 years ago.

14 **THE ADVENTURES OF FORREST WILSON**
At 100 years old, this Blue Ridge Electric retiree really gets around.

16 **HOW TO LIVE A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE**
Your thoughts and stories on achieving longevity with style and grace.

23 **THE POPCORN KING OF YADKIN VALLEY**
A fourth-generation Yadkinville farm is a one-stop popcorn shop.

26 **THE CAROLINA COUNTRY STORE COLLECTION**
More holiday gifts with a North Carolina touch.

On the Cover
Forrest Wilson reveals some (but not all) of his secrets for living lively at the age of 100. See page 14. (Photo ©Frederica Georgia Photography, Vilas, N.C.)

departments

FIRST PERSON 4
The night before Christmas when the lights went out . . . A memorial fund for a lineman who died on duty. . . Your letters.

MORE POWER TO YOU 8
A lifetime champion of rural electrification, Kesler Butler of South River EMC, received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine before he died. . . . The Allis Chalmers fuel cell tractor of 1959.

ONLINE 28
When is it time to buy a new PC?

MARKETPLACE 29-33
A showcase of goods and services.

JOYNER'S CORNER 31
What might George Washington have said while crossing the Delaware?

CAROLINA COMPASS 34
December events across the state

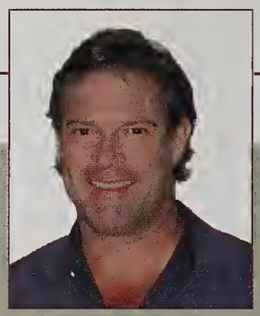
TAR HEEL LESSONS 37
A Piedmont Christmas 100 years ago, plus other fun and interesting features for students and teachers.

HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE 38
Lawn-growing tips, and how to fix soil.

ENERGY CENTS 40
All about heat pumps.

CLASSIFIED ADS 41
New this month: Lake Gaston winter getaway.

CAROLINA KITCHEN 42
Festive Ham 'n Cheese Spread, Chicken Crescent Wreath, Honey Pecan Triangles and Cranberry Cheesecake.



The Night Before Christmas When the Lights Went Out

Or an Account of a Visit From a True Crew Leader

By Michael E.C. Gery

With apologies to Rob Roedel and Sandy Trantham of the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, as well as Major Henry Livingston Jr. (1748-1828), Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863), and anyone else who claims to have written something similar.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through house,
Not a light bulb was burning; the power was out.
Icicle lights hung from the eaves with care,
But no one could see them without power out there.

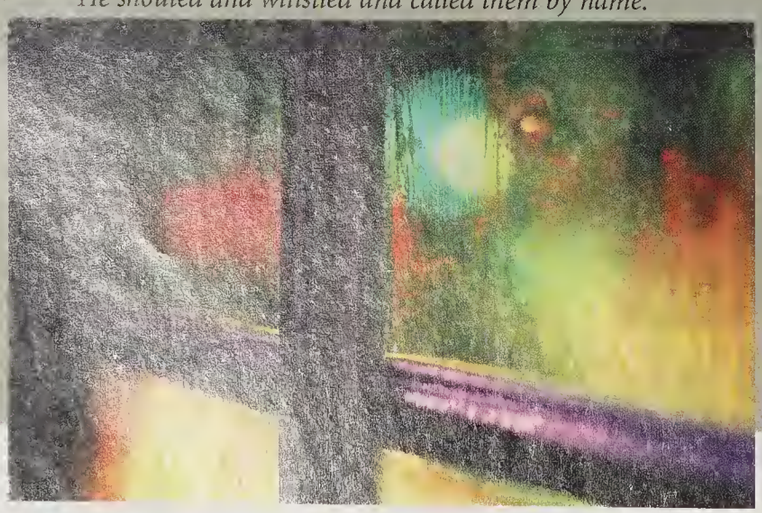
We members were nestled all snug in our beds,
While visions of power bills danced in our heads.
We paid for right of ways all to be cleared,
In case an ice storm would somehow appear.

When out of the sky there arose such a clatter,
We sprang from our beds to see what was the matter.
Away to the window we flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below.
But inside was dark, so we turned to the wall
Where a flip of the switch did nothing at all.

When what to our wondering eyes should appear
But big trucks with buckets and eight men with gear.
The leader jumped out, so lively and quick.
The crews called his name; they called him "Saint Nick."

They wore hard hats and gloves, carried hammers and pliers.
They set up their cones and blocks by the tires.
More rapid than beagles his linemen they came,
He shouted and whistled and called them by name.



"Now, Asher! Now, Manser! Now, Lancer and Nixon!
On Tippett! On Hooper! On Donald and Hickson.
To the top of the pole, to the break in the line,
Now climb away, splice away, fix it in time!"

As dry leaves that before the hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, raise up to the sky.
So up to the poletop the linemen they flew.
The trucks held the wire and Saint Nick, too.

And then, in a twinkling, we heard such a ruckus.
We leaned out to see the lift lifting the bucket.
Rising up high, then turning around,
There went Saint Nick to a pole with a bound.

He was dressed to be safe, from his head to his heel,
With red rubber sleeves and boot tips of steel.
A sack full of tools he had hooked to his side,
And he worked with his men, or at least he tried.

His eyes – how they twinkled – his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
But his purpose that night was to turn on the lights,
So he didn't care that his cheeks looked so bright.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
Thinking "Who caused this outage? Was it a terrorist?"
Soon they were done, and our power was back.
But Saint Nick still wondered who caused it, in fact?

He gazed to the sky and saw a big sleigh.
Some reindeer were flying a fat man away.
"It's those guys again! Now I have proof!
They tear up our lines when they land on the roof!"

He sprang to his crews and said they could leave.
They might still enjoy a late Christmas Eve.
We heard him exclaim as they drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all! Now y'all have light!"

The man who waves hello

There is this elderly gentleman who lives on a road I frequent to work, kids to school, etc. This gentleman is often seen sitting outside his home on a straight-back chair. As different cars pass, he looks up and gives them a smile -- the honest, glad-to-see-you sort of smile -- and a great big hello wave. I've often passed by thinking of stresses of the day. Then along comes this stranger's friendly hello, and all is forgotten. Life is good. He makes me smile.

It's his gift in life, I suppose, to pass along happiness to those who pass by. And I for one am very thankful for that big hello wave I see each day.

Tammy Boles
Mocksville
EnergyUnited

A memorial fund for Harold Anderson

On Sept. 18, Harold Anderson Jr. was killed while attempting to restore power during Hurricane Isabel. Harold was a crew leader with Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative in Morehead City and had worked there for 29 years. He leaves a wife and two children.

Many people from across the nation have asked about making donations to Harold's family. Harold's wife and sons want everyone to know they are fine and request that if you wish to honor Harold's memory, you do so in the following way.

The Harold Anderson Memorial Fund has been established to raise funds to continue to help others in the way Harold was known for. The two main recipients will be Project Christmas Cheer (to assist needy families during Christmas) and the Hope Mission (a local soup kitchen ministry). In addition, other projects will be considered for funding. The family along with some of Harold's co-workers will serve on a board to determine funding. The funds will be administered by the Carteret Community Foundation.

If you wish to make a donation, please do so by making checks payable to: Carteret Community Foundation, P.O. Box 3454, Morehead City, NC 28557. On the "For" line of the check write in: Harold Anderson Memorial Fund.

If anyone has any questions they may contact Gary Zajac, vice president of marketing and external affairs at (800) 682-2217 ext. 231, or Bill Ward, director of community relations at (800) 682-2217 ext. 251.

Craig A. Conrad
Executive Vice President & General Manager
Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative
Morehead City

It's not like real stone

James Dulley's column on cultured stone siding makes some questionable claims that homeowners should be aware of ["Energy Cents," November 2003]. It's highly unlikely that these synthetic materials will hold up for 50 years. And the statement that "they are impossible to distinguish from real stones" is an insult to Carolina Country readers and co-op members. Members of electric co-ops should look closely at this siding before using it.

August Reganess
A&D Structural Stone
Mooresville
EnergyUnited

Double load

These two little boys, Brace Barnette of Taylorsville and Samuel Tarahan of Virginia, are taking a ride with Brace's Great-Grandpa Ray Barnette in the Vashti community of Taylorsville.

Ruth Barnette
Vashti

Praising Surry-Yadkin EMC

How proud I am to live in Surry County with electrical services provided by Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation. I want to applaud the SYEMC for their continuing improvement process.

I became a cooperative customer in 1984. During the first years as a member we expected to lose power during high winds, summer and winter storms, and we did, either temporarily or for lengthier periods. By 1989, the year of Hurricane Hugo, Surry-Yadkin EMC had made great improvements, so that when outages occurred, the crews were on the scene quickly and power was restored. I will never forget the day Hugo blew through Surry County. We lost power around 8 a.m. and the power was restored within four to five hours. The crews worked faithfully, risking their own lives to ensure families and businesses could remain on a normal routine.

Today I can not recall how many years it has been since my household has experienced a lengthy power outage. I commend Surry-Yadkin EMC for their consistent systems maintenance program. The steps they have taken to reduce power loss risks have virtually eliminated power failures to my residence. It is a blessing to put your family to bed on a stormy winter night and awake in the morning to a warm and cozy home.

Thanks to all of the staff and hard working crews of Surry-Yadkin EMC for providing excellent service and customer confidence.

Stephen D. McCreary
Mount Airy
Surry-Yadkin EMC

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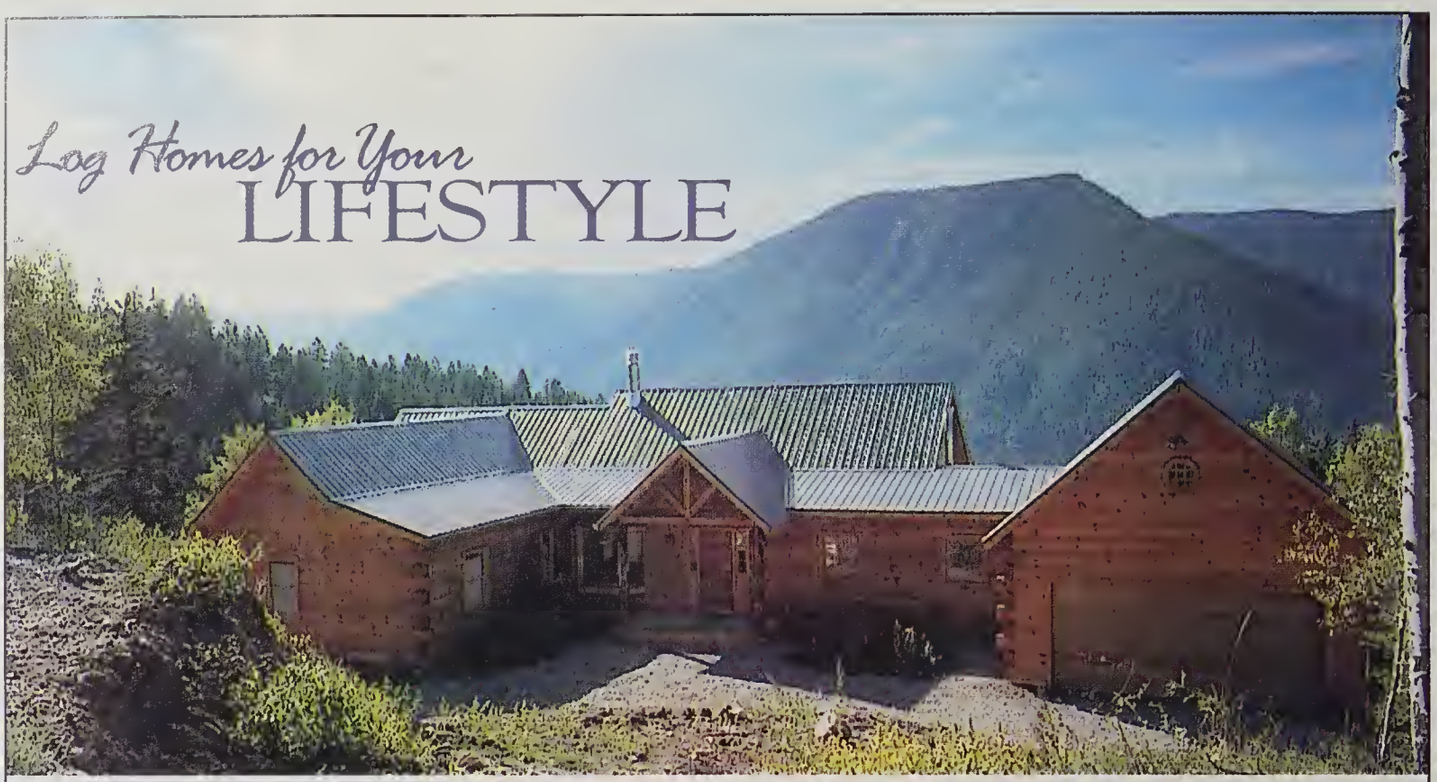

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Morris McClelion is the new CEO at Central EMC

Morris McClelion

The Central Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors appointed Morris McClelion chief executive officer and general manager. McClelion had been serving the electric cooperative as its interim CEO and general manager since Wallie Lamm retired from the position this past April. Before that time he was assistant general manager and manager of business development.

Board President Rebecca G. Cogan said, "Morris has a very distinguished career in the utility business. We are confident that his knowledge, as well as his experience in working with Central Electric and our member-owners, will provide excellent leadership for our cooperative's future."

McClelion has worked with utilities a total of 28 years, including nine at Four County EMC in Burgaw, where he served as manager of marketing, member services and corporate communications. He received the national industry designation of Certified Rural Electric Communicator, now known as a Certified Cooperative Communicator, in 1997. McClelion is a graduate of Clemson University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial management. He and his wife, Sharon, live in Sanford, and have two children, Kevin, a resident of Odgen, Utah, and Lori, a junior at Appalachian State University in Boone.

Central EMC is a Touchstone Energy cooperative composed of 17,000 members in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore and Randolph counties.

NCREA's new Web site

The North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority has developed a Web site to inform citizens of NCREA's role in the state's utility business. The site is at *www.ncrea.net*

NCREA is a state government agency with four main purposes:

- To ensure that consumers in the predominantly rural areas have access to adequate, dependable and affordable electric and telephone service.
- To oversee the application of the electric and telephone cooperatives rules and regulations to ensure they are administered according to the manner in which they are written.
- To receive and investigate service complaints that cooperative members may have.
- To advise cooperatives regarding recommended changes in rules and regulations.

Fuel cell vehicles have been here before

I can't figure out why President Bush says he wants to give some company millions of dollars to develop a fuel-cell powered vehicle. Fuel cells were invented in the late 1800s. In the 1950s, Allis-Chalmers made a fuel cell-powered farm tractor that ran on an electric motor. This was to do farm work for test purposes. Of course, it was not practical at that point in time.

This tractor may now be in the Smithsonian Institution.

Doug Lee
Stoney Ridge
EnergyUnited

Editor's Note: Mr. Lee is correct. That tractor is in the Smithsonian Institution. With permission from the Smithsonian, we're publishing a photo of it, and some information about it.

The Allis Chalmers fuel cell tractor, 1959. (Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution).

The Allis-Chalmers fuel cell tractor

In October 1959, this Allis-Chalmers tractor successfully plowed a field of alfalfa in West Allis, Wisc. Its 20-horsepower motor ran not by a standard battery but by what was then the largest operational fuel-cell unit in the world.

Fuel cells produce electrical power directly through a chemical reaction, without heat, smoke or noise. Unlike standard batteries, the cells do not store energy but convert chemical energy to electrical energy. After the October 1959 demonstration in the alfalfa field, the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company donated the tractor to the Smithsonian.

The idea of using a fuel cell to produce power was not a new one when Allis-Chalmers unveiled its fuel cell tractor in 1959. More than a century earlier, Britain's Sir William Grove had originated the idea of a fuel cell that would run on hydrogen and oxygen. Since that time, inventors have experimented with a number of fuels and configurations. A year after developing the fuel cell tractor, Allis-Chalmers produced a fuel cell forklift that could lift a 2,000-pound load off the ground.

South River EMC pioneer receives the Order of the Long Leaf Pine

Kesler C. Butler, a pioneer in North Carolina's movement to bring electric power to rural areas, died Sept. 6 at his Grey's Creek home, Cumberland County, at the age of 86. Three days before Butler died, Gov. Michael Easley awarded him the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in recognition of his commitment to community and 63 years dedicated to the members of South River EMC. An excerpt from the citation reads, "Congratulations Mr. Butler and thank you for your sixty plus years of service to North Carolina's electric cooperatives, to South River Electric Membership Corporation and to the great state of North Carolina."

Butler received the award just days after being dismissed from Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. He accepted the award from N.C. State Representative Alex Warner and South River EMC CEO Buddy G.Creed.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is awarded to North Carolinians with a proven record of service to their community or dedication to their chosen careers. Other Tar Heels who have received this honor include Billy Graham, Maya Angelou and Charles Kuralt.

Kesler Butler and several other citizens with similar foresight worked to earn South River EMC's charter in 1940. Inspired by Franklin D. Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Act, the small group of citizens from Cumberland and Sampson counties formed a committee to create the cooperative. He often spoke of working into the wee hours of the morning making plans to bring electricity to the area. Butler served on the board of directors from the beginning of the cooperative. In 1957 he was elected president, the position he held until his death.

In 2001, Kesler Butler (left) was recognized for 60 years of service to South River EMC. The co-op's CEO Buddy G. Creed is at right.

"Mr. Butler was a true pioneer," said Buddy G. Creed. "Through the years he has been the leadership behind the success of the cooperative. I have always had an immeasurable amount of respect for Mr. Butler and am honored to have had the opportunity to work with him and the entire board of directors. The death of Mr. Butler is a great loss to the electric cooperatives as well as to me personally."

In addition to his work with the cooperative, Butler had a fulfilling career as a civil engineer and former division superintendent for the state Department of Transportation. He also started the Grey's Creek Ruritan Club in 1947, was an original trustee of the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and served on the local school committee for 26 years.

South River EMC is a Touchstone Energy cooperative for more than 36,000 members in parts of Harnett, Cumberland, Sampson, Johnston and Bladen counties.

Co-ops sign agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

United States Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Glenn English signed the first agreement between industry and the Bush Administration under the President's Climate VISION plan on Oct. 22, 2003. The VISION plan stands for Voluntary Innovative Sector Initiatives: Opportunities Now and is a voluntary, public-private partnership to pursue cost-effective initiatives that will reduce the projected growth in America's greenhouse gas emissions.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Glenn English sign the first agreement between industry and the Bush Administration under the President's Climate VISION plan on Oct. 22.

"NRECA has entered into a memorandum of understanding [MOU] with the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will ultimately reduce the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions by electric cooperatives," said English.

Climate VISION is a response to the President's announcement in 2002 to address long-term global climate change.

As part of that strategy, the President is committed to reducing America's greenhouse gas intensity — the ratio of emissions to economic output — by 18 percent during the next decade, and challenged American businesses and industries to undertake broader efforts to help meet that goal.

According to the MOU, its purpose is to "explore new areas for cooperation on the identification, development and deployment of greenhouse gas emission-efficient actions, activities, and technologies suitable for electric cooperatives." This may include developing renewable technologies for electricity generation, such as biomass co-fired power plants, biomass gasification, animal waste-to-electricity, landfill methane and increased use of wind and solar energy.

Six days in Dare County celebrate "12 Seconds That Changed The World"

The First Flight Centennial in Dare County features six days of exhibits, speakers and demonstrations to showcase one of civilization's greatest achievements -- the first, heavier-than-air powered flight in December 1903 in the Kill Devil Hills. The celebration, to be held at the Wright Brothers National Memorial on Dec. 12-17, includes performances by The Beach Boys, The Temptations and country music stars Aaron Tippin and Lee Greenwood, along with appearances by famous aviators, wing-walkers and military aircraft demonstrations. Special exhibits shown in several locations include "Outer Banks at the Turn of the Century," "Static Aircraft Display," "Wrights Brothers Artifacts," and the NASA-oriented "100 Years of Powered Flight."

Actor John Travolta will serve as master of ceremonies for the program on Dec. 17 (tickets are sold out for the day's events). Travolta, a licensed jet pilot, will also fly his Boeing 707 as part of the day's ceremonial fly-over.

The celebration is a partnership between the National Park Service, the State of North Carolina, First Flight Centennial Foundation, and the Outer Banks community. The First Flight Centennial Pavilion Exhibit Hall is open during the celebration, as well as regular visitor hours throughout the year. For more centennial event information, call (252) 441-6291 or visit wwwfirstflightcentennial.org. For ticket information, see below.

"We came down here for wind and sand, and we have got them." — Orville Wright to his sister, Oct. 18, 1900. The photo shows Orville piloting the Wright glider in October 1902 from a ridge south of Big Hill at Kill Devil Hills. Wilbur is at left, Dan Tate at right. Photo attributed to George Spratt. (Courtesy of Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University)

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

Presenters include:

- Ethel Finley (Women Airforce Service Pilots)
- Colonel Charles E. McGee (Tuskegee Airmen)
- Linda Morgan (set flight speed records)
- Richard Keyt (record holder of the world's fastest 4-cylinder airplane)
- Speakers from the Marshall Space Flight Center
- Robert B. and Beverly M. Elliot (demonstrations of toothpick airplanes)

HOW TO GET TICKETS

Tickets for Friday, December 17 are sold out. To purchase tickets for other days, call (800) 973-7327 (Use prompt 1 to get into Reservation System and Prompt 9 to get you to Wright Brothers). Or visit the Reservation website: http://www.wrightbrothers.reserveworld.com . Individual one-day tickets are $10 per day. If an individual adult purchases entrance tickets for [illegible] days at the time of original purchase, the [illegible] package price is $25. Children under [illegible] still require a ticket for admission, [illegible] seniors and disabled individuals may purchase daily tickets for $5 each. Package [illegible] all [illegible] days to [illegible] seniors is $20. Special rates offered for commercial tour groups.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Friday, December 12

A day especially for children. Highlights include interacting with NASA, interviews with the Wright Family children, Candy Bomber demonstrations, a chance to soar with the EAA Young Eagles and a performance by the Raleigh Boy Choir.

Saturday & Sunday, December 13-14

The weekend celebrates aviation's impact throughout the last century. Appearances by famed aviators, aircraft demonstrations, a 100-person jump team, skywriting competition and a wing-walker team. The Beach Boys perform 1 p.m. Saturday; The Temptations perform 1 p.m. Sunday.

Monday, December 15

This day honors those men and women who developed and flew military aircraft. Military aircraft dating back to World War I, participation from the U.S. military stationed around the world, and a skydiving presentation. Country music great Aaron Tippin, a former commercial airplane pilot, will perform at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 16

A special ceremony will honor 100 aviation heroes, with their historic contributions examined through film and exhibits. Performance of "Riding the Winds of December" by the Dare County Schools. Lee Greenwood performs at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17

John Travolta will emcee the celebration's culmination: a re-creation of the Wright brothers flight, which took off at 10:35 a.m. and lasted 12 seconds, traveling 120 feet. The Wright Experience team will re-enact the first flight with an authentic reproduction of the 1903 Flyer. Later, Harry B. Combs, noted pilot, author and former president of Gates [illegible] Corporation will donate a full-scale reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer to the National Park Service. Dignitaries, celebrities and aviation legends on hand, with a 100-plane flyby (spaced throughout the day), and a Millionth EAA Young Eagle flight with [illegible] Brigadier General Chuck Yeager.

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MONTHLY RATES

	Issue Age	$50,000 Male	$50,000 Female	$100,000 Male	$100,000 Female	$250,000 Male	$250,000 Female	$500,000 Male	$500,000 Female
15 Year Term	20-25	Call for more information		12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
	26			12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
	27			12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
	28			12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	29			12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	30			12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	31			12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	32			12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
	33			12.43	11.38	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
	34			12.43	11.46	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
	35			12.43	11.64	14.88	13.56	24.50	21.88
	36			12.78	11.99	15.53	14.22	25.81	23.19
	37			13.21	12.51	16.41	15.31	27.56	25.38
	38			13.56	13.04	17.06	16.41	28.88	27.56
	39			14.09	13.74	17.94	17.50	30.63	29.75
	40			14.61	14.35	19.03	18.81	32.81	32.38
	41			15.66	14.96	20.78	19.91	36.31	34.56
	42			16.98	15.66	22.97	21.22	40.69	37.19
	43			18.11	16.10	25.38	22.09	45.50	38.94
	44			19.51	16.71	27.78	23.41	50.31	41.56
	45			21.18	17.59	30.63	24.94	56.00	44.63
	46			22.49	18.20	33.03	26.03	60.81	46.81
	47			24.33	19.08	36.53	27.56	67.81	49.88
	48			26.16	20.04	39.81	29.31	74.38	53.38
	49			28.18	20.83	43.75	30.84	82.25	56.44
	50			30.36	21.96	47.91	33.03	90.56	60.81
	51			32.64	23.19	51.84	35.22	98.44	65.19
	52			35.35	24.59	56.88	37.84	108.50	70.44

MONTHLY RATES

	Issue Age	$50,000 Male	$50,000 Female	$100,000 Male	$100,000 Female	$250,000 Male	$250,000 Female	$500,000 Male	$500,000 Female
15 Year Term	53	Other amounts also available		38.06	26.16	61.91	40.69	118.56	76.13
	54			40.86	27.65	67.38	43.31	129.50	81.38
	55			44.36	29.58	73.72	46.81	142.19	88.38
	56			50.31	32.73	84.66	51.84	164.06	98.44
	57			56.96	35.96	96.91	57.31	188.56	109.38
	58			64.14	39.64	110.03	63.00	214.81	120.75
	59			71.23	43.31	123.16	69.13	241.06	133.00
	60			80.15	47.86	139.56	76.34	273.88	147.44
10 Year Term	61			53.99	37.36	96.91	60.59	188.56	115.94
	62			59.50	40.69	108.06	66.50	210.88	127.75
	63			65.01	44.01	119.00	72.19	232.75	139.13
	64			70.53	47.34	129.94	78.09	254.63	150.94
	65			77.44	51.63	143.72	85.53	282.19	165.81
	66			85.14	55.30	158.81	91.44	312.38	177.63
	67			95.46	58.98	179.16	99.53	353.06	193.81
	68			105.79	63.79	199.72	107.41	394.19	209.56
	69			116.11	68.43	220.06	115.50	434.88	225.75
	70			128.98	73.85	245.44	125.56	485.63	245.88
	71			147.79	87.59	283.50	152.69	561.75	300.13
	72			172.81	106.14	334.03	188.78	662.81	372.31
	73			197.84	124.69	384.78	224.88	764.31	444.50
	74			222.86	143.15	435.31	261.19	865.38	517.13
	75			254.19	166.25	498.75	306.25	992.25	607.25
	76			282.89	187.25	556.72	347.38	1108.19	689.50
	77			321.21	215.34	634.16	402.06	1263.06	798.88
	78			359.54	243.43	711.38	456.97	1417.50	908.69
	79			397.86	271.60	788.81	511.88	1572.38	1018.50
	80			442.84	301.44	885.72	580.56	1766.19	1155.88

Premiums illustrated represent ages 61-80 for 10 year level term and ages 20-60 for 15 year level term insurance with guaranteed level premiums for 10 and 15 years (not all forms available in all states). $100,000 rates are LTG Ultra-C, (policy form no. LTG-C01 AG Preferred Nontobacco). $250,000 - $500,000 rates are LTG Ultra (policy form no. LTG 2000AG Preferred Nontobacco). It is issued by American General Life Insurance Company, Houston, TX. Medical examination required. Premiums increase at the end of the guaranteed term if policy is renewed. Premiums for other rate classes, age and payment plans are available upon request. Death benefit remains level and is payable in lump sum, or installments, if so elected. The insurance company may contest the policy for two years from date of policy issue for material misstatements or omissions on the application. Death benefit payable from any cause, except suicide within first two policy years. In the event of suicide in the first two years, policy benefit is limited to return of premium paid. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES. American General Life Insurance Company is a member of the American International Group, Inc. The underwriting risks, financial obligations and support functions associated with the products issued by American General Life Insurance Company are solely its responsibility. American General Life is responsible for its own individual financial condition and contractual obligations.

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AMT. OF INS. DESIRED _____ ❑ TOBACCO ❑ NON-TOBACCO

Comments: _____

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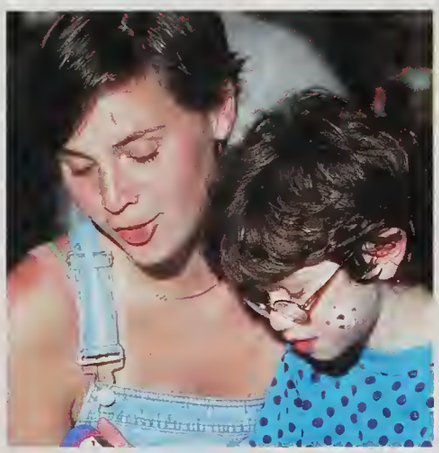

North Carolina's electric cooperatives hosted a golf tournament in September 2002 that raised more than $64,000 for the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center.

The "Learn Not to Burn" program directed by the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center sends specialists to make presentations to schools, fire departments, senior citizens, Jaycees and other service groups. Many serious injuries and fatalities are prevented each year because children and adults learn not to burn.

Listed here are the major donors to the golf tournament. The cooperatives also are very grateful to the many other businesses and individuals who contributed to the success of the tournament.

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NRTC donated golf balls for the tournament

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Sea Trail Resort donated a weekend-stay.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives

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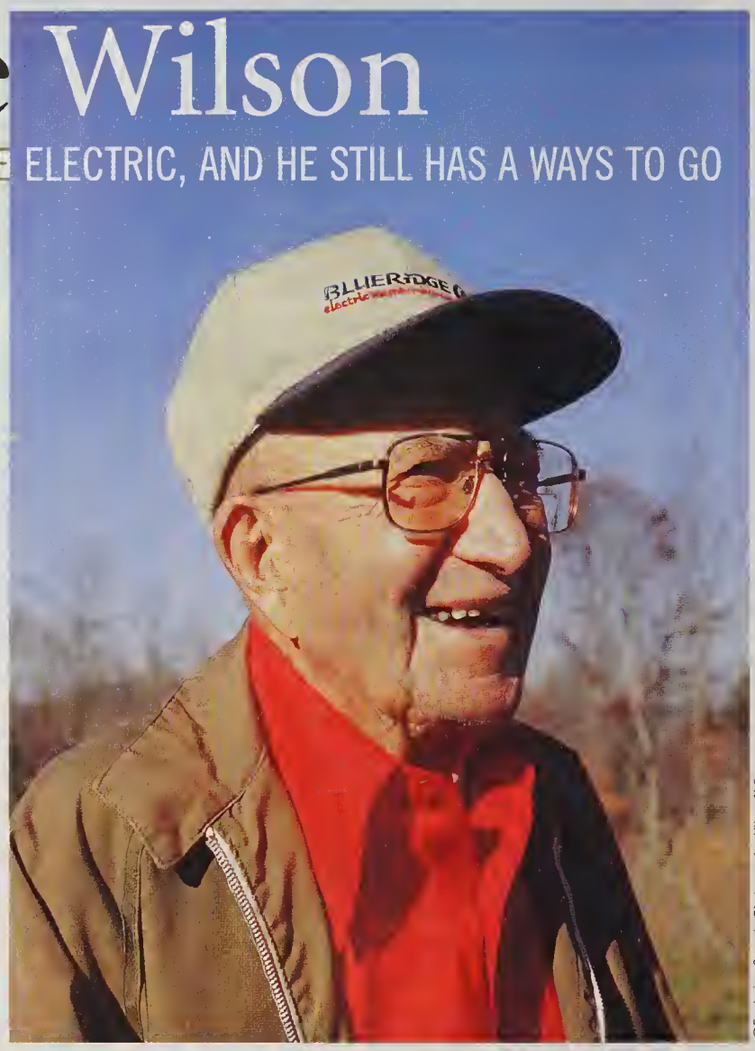
The Adventures of Forrest Blaine Wilson

HE RETIRED 32 YEARS AGO FROM BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC, AND HE STILL HAS A WAYS TO GO

By Betty Jane Sheffield



©Frederica Georgia Photography, Vilas, NC

Forrest Wilson, of Vilas, turned 100 this year.

When Forrest Wilson turned 100 years old last May, people asked how he has remained in such good shape. He said, "Living a good clean life, being a Baptist, and being a Republican."

His advice for a long and happy life is "have a sense of humor" and "make friends."

"It's easier to smile and make friends," he says, "than it is to be a grouch."

Mr. Wilson smiles at everyone he sees in the Lois E. Harrill Senior Center in Boone, especially pretty women, and it's a frisky smile that sometimes seems to hide a secret or a sweet memory. He's a regular at the senior center lunches, driving his Ford Tempo GL down from his Boone Mountain house off Highway 421 near Vilas after tending to his animals or other chores. He keeps goats, mules, cats, a pig, a dog, cows and horses. He's up at about 7 each morning and generally makes himself breakfast: grits or instant oatmeal, one cup of coffee, and two or three times a week he makes three eggs, sausage or bacon, and buttered toast with grape jelly or honey. His son, Phillip, who lives next door with his wife, Bertha, and their daughter, Melanie Dawn, tells how his dad eats half a 10-inch cornbread cake, sweet milk, and a mess of green beans with a chunk of fatback, pours on about three spoonfuls of salt, and always eats the fatback first. His favorite food is hamburger, or the chicken and dumplings made by his housekeeper, Wanda Brown, who comes every Thursday. His diet must suit him. He says the only time he's been in a hospital was to visit. The only medication he takes is a half an aspirin per day.

He grew up in Watauga County before electricity reached there and people got around by horse and wagon. Even after working with Blue Ridge Electric for 25 years–from 1946 to 1971–he jokes that he's still not entirely accustomed to electric lights. During most of the year, he's up with the sun and in bed asleep before dark.

Forrest Blaine Wilson was born on May 6, 1903, three miles west of Boone in a log house on the family farm. His father taught in the public schools for 40 some years. The family included one girl and five boys, with Forrest as the middle boy. "Mother was a good homemaker and took all of us boys to church in an old horse and buggy." She lived to age 103. His brother Jerry is 95 and was a barber in Boone for 67 years. Forrest graduated from Cove Creek High School in 1926 and later from business college in Winston-Salem. He worked four and a half years at the Paramount Public Theater and became assistant manager. "I was in the movie picture business when movie pictures started," he says.

In 1937 he moved into a brand new building that housed his filling station, feed store and living quarters. In 1938 he married Blanche Anderson. He was 35, she was 26. "She was a local girl. She got comin' into my place of business to buy food. And I realized she was a good cook and a good church-goin' girl. We got married and lived together for 62 years." She died in August 2000.

When World War II broke out, Forrest wanted to enlist, but he was nearly 40 and the military wouldn't take him. The local recruitment office set him up at a factory in Cleveland, Ohio, that made airplane parts. "I worked on the same machine for 16 months, seven days a week, two shifts. The fellow who was supposed to relieve me, he hit the bottle. The inspector wouldn't let him work and asked me. So I was caught working two shifts—second and third." On the trip

©Frederica Georgia Photography, Vilas, NC

out to Cleveland, Forrest drove a Model A Ford, moving along at about 20 miles per hour. It was winter and getting colder the farther he drove. As he passed a road crew, he noticed the kerosene smudge pot heaters they were using. He took one to keep warm. On the way back from Cleveland, he set it back on the road where he'd found it.

After the war, back in Boone, he and his cousin, Solomon Edgar Moody, landed work with the fledgling cooperative Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation. Mr. Wilson says that Stanford Berry hired him temporarily, then kept him on when a blizzard knocked out all power in the area. Forrest and his cousin were setting out to go rabbit hunting when Stanford Berry tracked them down and asked them to help put the lines and poles back up. "Which we did," Mr. Wilson says. "Took our dogs and guns to the office and worked all day and slept in the office three nights until we got the power back on." During his time with the cooperative, Mr. Wilson trimmed trees, set poles, maintained lines, even visited people to collect overdue bills ("light bills were $1.50 a month"). When he retired in 1971, he was the first employee of Blue Ridge Electric to be paid a retirement pension. This past May, Blue Ridge Electric honored Forrest Wilson at a ceremony during its annual membership meeting.

He tends a menagerie of animals at his place on Boone Mountain.

Walking to Trade, and camping with goats

He enjoys telling stories about his exploits in the very old days. As a youth, his best friend was Charlie Wilkinson. "One Sunday, Charlie came by after church. After lunch we decided to walk over to Trade, Tennessee, about four miles, to chase the girls. We had to go out of state, because the good mothers didn't approve of it—chasing girls. I ain't gonna tell you nothin' else. But on the way came a storm, and Charlie and I went into this barn for shelter. While we was in there, I saw an old-time rake, to rake hay, and I crawled up on the seat and I noticed a hen's nest full of eggs on the ground. I told Charlie that I would eat one if he would. Charlie took one and I took one. In a little while, Charlie came around. I'm still on the seat. He looked up at me with a pitiful look and said, 'You know that last egg wasn't quite right.' He walked around a little 'til here come his breakfast, lunch and egg. He lost it all. I ate two. I held onto mine."

His younger brother Jerry, 95, was a barber for 67 years in Boone. Forrest says, "He was the workingest boy I've ever seen. And the teacher's pet. Liked him so much she kept him in one grade for three years."

Then there was the time he and his brothers took a camping trip. "When I was about eight or nine years old, my two younger brothers, Albert and Jerry, used to work goats. And my two older brothers made me and my younger brothers a little homemade wagon. So in early spring, we decided to go camping. We harnessed up two of the goats and hooked 'em to the wagon. Jerry, my youngest brother, decided he wanted to ride one of the goats. So when we decided everything was in order and were ready to go, we took off and went up to a pasture field on a dirt road. We went up the road about a quarter of a mile where there was a large flat rock along a stream. About the time we got there with our outfit, a big dark collie dog came out of the woods. He came up close to where we were camping, and the goats were afraid of the dog. So we realized we're in for some excitement. Jerry was still riding the large angora goat, holding onto his long curly hair, and he broke loose and made back for the barn. We all started back, and when we got back to the barn, we encountered all kinds of excitement. The goat that Jerry was riding went up on top of this big barn with Jerry on it. Turkeys, geese, chickens, piggins, all a'makin all kinds of noise. Mother came out of the kitchen to see what the excitement was, and when she got out and looked around and saw Jerry on top of the barn with Jerry on the goat, Mother throwed a fit. Oh, Lordy! She reached down and got her long dress and she came down the hill. She called on the Lord to help us out of that commotion. After about a half an hour, everything was back normal."

Forrest Wilson can be reached c\o L.E. Harrill Senior Center, 132 Poplar Grove Connector, Suite A, Boone, NC 28607.

Betty Jane Sheffield is a member of Blue Ridge Electric and lives in Boone.

KEEP SMILING, TEND A GARDEN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS, WORK HARD, FOLLOW A PURPOSE, FAITH IN GOD, NO TV, TEACH OTHERS, EXERCISE, EAT WELL, A POSITIVE OUTLOOK, BE KIND TO OTHERS

HOW TO LIVE A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE

Remember when you were so young that you didn't even consider that one day (if you were lucky) you'd get old? Old age was way, way down the road. I remember thinking that way. But today I'm a 34-year-old wife and mother, and hey, I think I would like to stick around to watch the lives of my children and grandchildren unfold. This month I found myself keenly interested in whatever secrets those in their 80s, 90s and beyond might hold.

More than 200 of you sent letters filled with wonderful stories and photos of inspiring older folks who work harder and seem happier than many of us who are younger. There's no magic pill or secret handshake that guarantees a long and happy life. But there does seem to be a connection of body, mind and spirit. Good genes don't hurt either.

Each letter tells a story of a special person who inspires you to live a good life. There are specific instructions (eat more oatmeal, no pizza after 9 p.m.), but the three big-ticket suggestions are general enough to adapt into your own life. Resoundingly, you say that a strong religious faith is vital to carry you through life's upheavals. You suggest surrounding yourself with the company of friends and family, and to keep a busy social calendar. And, of course, you must eat right and stay active.

As you read these submissions, take time to study the pictures of these good-looking senior citizens from across North Carolina. Take a lesson from them on how to begin—if you haven't already — laying the groundwork for your own long and happy life.

— *Kim Whorton Tripp*
Contributing Editor

See more stories on our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com. Next month, we'll publish your stories of "How I Got My Name." (Deadline was Nov. 15.) See the themes and rules of our "Nothing Could Be Finer" stories on page 18.

UNKINK YOURSELF

Three days a week I exercise with an extraordinary group of men and women, including one dear lady named Dottie. She hasn't told me her age, but I know she is pushing 80, and she does push-ups. She does a full lay-out man's push up. That's very impressive. Some may say she has good genes, but I know that Dottie makes choices every day to stay fit.

Laughingly, she describes the "unkinking stretches" she does to get her arthritic bones out of bed. She "de-kinks" a little more by walking, not driving to the clubhouse for our workout. On some days she also takes yoga in town at the Wellness Center. Of course she could stay home and have coffee and a doughnut, but she doesn't.

Dottie does push-ups.

Not surprisingly, Dottie makes good food choices. Oatmeal is her breakfast of choice. She packs healthy snacks to take on driving trips and does wonderful things with crabs. Growing up short was completely out of her control, but staying trim is not.

I was lucky to have the best scrambled egg breakfast at her house. It was quite a feast.

Along with the fitness choices Dottie makes daily comes a generous spirit. She has known grief that could have made her sour, but instead she is upbeat. She's just great to be around. Ralph, her husband of nearly 60 years, thinks so too. She's the best crew he's ever had. You may just see them cruising the Pamlico aboard their new boat, "Kerri Leigh." If you were out there this past summer, you may have seen Dottie water-skiing.

Maureen LaVake
Washington
Tideland EMC

WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING

Some times we think the goal in life is to be worry-free. My theory is the opposite. My grandfather, who is 91, lived his life worrying about his crops. I believe that having had something to worry about contributed to his longevity. Even when his legs were bowed and his fingers crooked from rheumatism, he climbed on his blue tractor and tilled the soil. Haywood, as I'll call him, watched his soybean crop from his favorite living room chair, and when he spotted a weed sticking its dastardly head above the canopy of legume bushes, he would march out to the middle of the field and pluck the unwanted plant with a sense of victory. Even now, bound in a wheelchair, he worries that his garden will not get hoed, the yards raked, the flowerbeds weeded. In some way, that has made him happy— and long in the tooth.

Nanette Inman
Tar Heel
Four County EMC

NO TELEVISION

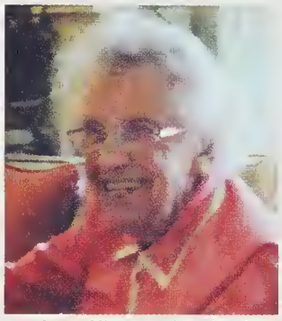
My two neighbors, Romney and Voda Brim, are both 95 years old and have been married for 78 years. From what I have witnessed, longevity and happiness must have something to do with "no television." The happy couple has never owned one. Their information and news come from the radio or newspaper.

Voda has a few health issues that hinder her from getting around much. Romney is a remarkable man. He does the cooking, the cleaning, mows his lawn sometimes as many as three times a week. He also tends the finest garden around. He will not let any of his nine children do very much for them. There have also been rumors that he will still climb a tree every now and then to better view any wildlife that might stroll by.

Beside the fact that they are very godly people, I believe some of their happiness and longevity has to do with not owning a TV, because sitting in front of the TV can make us lazy, inactive people. Keeping yourself busy is much healthier. If we just look around us, we can always find physical things to keep us busy.

Judy McMillian
Mount Airy
Surry-Yadkin EMC

INSPIRE PEOPLE



Aunt Alice, an inspiration.

Aunt Alice celebrated her 102nd birthday in April. At age 97, she approached *us* with the idea that it might be time for her to give up her home and downsize. So she packed up, sold her home, and moved to Trinity Oaks in Salisbury, where she has an apartment and is living independently.

At her 100th birthday gala, one of her former students approached her and said, "You inspired me to become a teacher." Alice taught for 38 years and inspired and touched many lives as she still does today.

She sets the standard as our family matriarch, living her faith every day. She's always cheerful and optimistic with something good to say about everybody. She doesn't tolerate negative thinking. She eats moderately, with a glass of red wine and a chocolate each day, and walks for exercise. Playing bridge is her passion followed by crossword puzzles and reading. She has a great sense of humor and laughs frequently. The Salisbury Post, Time and Prevention magazines keep her well-informed and fun to visit with. She is an inspiration to us all.

The Collins Family
Mary Kay Korty
Huntersville
EnergyUnited

KEEP ARTHUR AWAY

I was born in Belhaven in March of 1925. At age 15, I went to New York. I wanted to get married at 17, but I couldn't in New York. So we waited until we were 21 and got married. We went back to Belhaven and bought a farm and built a house on it. We had two kids, Shanon and Greg.

Every day I get up and go to work. Every night, I come home. I have one glass of wine, eight ounces. Blood pressure: 130 over 75. When I go to bed, I stretch my legs out as hard as I can to keep "Arthur" away. And I smile all the time.

Lee Spencer
Belhaven
Tideland EMC

STAY TOGETHER

My parents, James and Thelma Houston, have been married for 58 years. James is 84 years old and Thelma is 79. I asked them "What is the secret to living a long and happy life?" These are the answers I got.

Never live alone. Always be surrounded by family and friends. Be loving, affectionate and never be afraid to say those words: "I love you." Be sure to kiss and hug your spouse, family and friends. Laugh out loud, as humor is very powerful. Always have a positive attitude towards life and believe that you will live to be 100 years old.

If you are sick, try to beat it. Don't ever feel sorry for yourself. Have a reason to get up in the morning. Take care of your body like it is a temple. Don't abuse it with drugs, alcohol, stress, etc. Always eat well, exercise, relax, get a good night's sleep every night and be motivated.

I asked what is the most important secret, and they said to keep your faith in the Lord and have a positive mind, as the family that prays and eats together will stay together.

Nancy Marlette
Newport
Carteret-Craven EC member

Emma Milliken, winning your heart.

WORK HARD, LOOK GOOD, SMILE

This is a picture of my best friend's mother. She is 90 years young.

Hard work never got in her way. She was always up at 5 a.m. with the roosters and to bed early with the chickens. She always has the most beautiful collards and tomatoes in her yard. She could have won "yard of the month."

continued on p. 18

...ued from p. 17

Miss Emma Milliken always ends her week going to church, and she could win the fashion show, and her smile could win your heart.

Doris Scott
Shallotte
Brunswick

KEEP MOVING

This is Freda Jaynes, born February 1903. She graduated from Western Carolina College and Haywood Institute and is the oldest living alumna of those schools.

Freda Jaynes

After teaching school for 35 years, she retired in 1968. She is a member of the Retired Teachers Association, serving as President of the Haywood Division for several years.

As a member of the Haywood County Agriculture Committee, you will see her every year checking in items for the exhibits at the Haywood County Fair. She has received over 100 ribbons, herself, for entries in the fair.

She was an avid seamstress and quilter until her eyesight failed. Her flowerbeds still receive her care. She mowed her lawn and drove her car at age 95, giving these up under protest when her sons insisted.

Every Friday for over 20 years she has volunteered at Haywood Christian Ministry in the pantry distributing food for the needy. You can visit her there any Friday and see her beautiful smile.

Freda is the oldest member of Long's Chapel United Methodist Church, having been a member for 82 years. She keeps in shape by doing 20 minutes of exercises before getting out of bed and 20 minutes of exercises after she gets up. She started these exercises 20 years ago when arthritis caused stiffness in her joints.

Her secret to life? She says, "God has blessed me. You have to keep moving and you should never just sit down and quit."

Lil Davis
Canton
Haywood EMC

NEVER GIVE UP

I am so proud of my husband, Jim. He is a "never give up" kind of guy. At age 60, after a heart attack, he counted it as a blessing, a wake-up call to go forward with his life.

At age 62 he retired to be a full-time father to our one-year-old son. At age 67 he began working as a substitute school teacher to supplement our income while I attended nursing school.

Jim Gantt testing the rocker.

At age 73 he decided to fulfill a lifelong dream and began to build a new house for us. He worked on his own for two years to complete it. On his 75th birthday, I bought him a rocking chair for the new front porch, time to rest. Today, at age 76, he took on a new challenge. He began work as a rural mail associate.

He could sit in his rocking chair if he wanted to, but he is happier if he is learning new things. What a wonderful example he has been for our son, now 15 years old. I believe he will be blessed with many productive years to come. The rocking chair will wait.

Jeannette Gantt
Gastonia
Rutherford EMC

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Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

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That remodeling job that went crazy. Send pictures.
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What have you tried that really works?
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Where was it and what happened? Send pictures.
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"What We Did When the Power Went Out"
Smart – and maybe not-so-smart – ways to cope during an outage.
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"Being a Teenager Today"
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Something you never knew about a grandparent.
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The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less. We retain reprint rights.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay $50 for each submission published.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com

Holiday Recipes

Christmas Party Pinwheels

2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
1 package (.4 ounce) ranch salad dressing mix
½ cup minced sweet red pepper
½ cup minced celery
¼ cup sliced green onions
¼ cup sliced stuffed olives
3 to 4 flour tortillas (10 inches)

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and dressing mix until smooth. Add red pepper, celery, onions and olives; mix well. Spread about ¾ cup on each tortilla. Roll up tightly; wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Slice into half-inch pieces.

Yield: 15-20 servings.

Chocolate Almond Brittle

1 cup sugar
½ cup light corn syrup
⅛ teaspoon salt
1 cup coarsely chopped almonds
1 tablespoon butter (no substitutes)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1½ teaspoons baking soda
¾ pound chocolate candy coating

In a 1½ quart microwave-safe bowl, combine sugar, corn syrup and salt; mix well. Microwave on high for 4 minutes. Stir in almonds; microwave on high for 4 minutes. Add the butter and vanilla; microwave on high for 1½ minutes. Stir in baking soda. As soon as the mixture foams, quickly pour onto greased metal baking sheet.

Cool completely. Break into 2 inch pieces. Melt candy coating in a double boiler or microwave oven. Dip one side of brittle in chocolate; place on waxed paper to harden. Store in an airtight container.

Yield: about 1 pound.

**Editor's note: This recipe was tested using a 700-watt microwave.*

Stuffed Turkey Roll

1 egg, slightly beaten
½ cup quick-cooking oats
½ teaspoon salt
⅛ teaspoon pepper
1 pound ground turkey
¼ cup chopped onion
¼ cup chopped celery
3 tablespoons butter or margarine
2 tablespoons water

½ teaspoon rubbed sage
¼ teaspoon ground thyme
2 cups seasoned stuffing cubes
2 bacon strips, halved

In a bowl, combine the egg, oats, salt and pepper. Crumble turkey over mixture and mix well. Pat into a 12-by-9-inch rectangle on a piece of heavy duty foil; set aside.

In a saucepan, sauté onion and celery in butter until tender. Remove from the heat. Stir in water, sage and thyme. Add stuffing; mix well. Spoon over turkey to within 1 inch of edges. Roll up, jelly-roll style, starting with a short side and peeling away foil while rolling.

Place loaf, seam side down, in a greased 9-by-5-by-3 inch loaf pan. Place bacon strips over top. Bake, uncovered, at 325 degrees for 60-70 minutes or until meat is no longer pink and a meat thermometer reads 165 degrees.

Yield: 4 servings.

Chili Artichoke Dip

1 can (14 ounces) water-packed artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
1 jar (6½ ounces) marinated artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies
3 cups (12 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
¼ cup mayonnaise*
Assorted crackers or tortilla chips

In a bowl, combine the artichokes, chilies, cheese and mayonnaise. Transfer to a greased 8-inch square baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve warm with crackers or tortilla chips.

Yield: about 3½ cups.

**Editors Note: Reduced fat or fat-free mayonnaise may not be substituted for regular mayonnaise in this recipe.*

Find more than 200 recipes and photos, and share your favorites recipes, at our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send $2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at *www.tasteofhome.com.*

Photo by Tom Gillespie

Pisgah Covered Bridge lives to see another day

N.C. Zoo spearheads efforts to rebuild historic bridge after floodwaters washed it away

By Renee Gannon

Some say it was like watching an old friend slip away.

It was a cultural and historic structure that was supposed to last at least a little while longer. But in the torrential rainstorm of Aug. 9, the Little River rose 14 feet above normal, tore apart the Pisgah Covered Bridge and washed it downstream.

Most believed memories were all that was left of the bridge, located about 10 miles southwest of Asheboro. But others in the Pisgah community of Randolph County wanted to make new memories by restoring the old covered bridge.

"When I heard about the bridge going down in the raging rain, my wife and I drove down to see it," said Dave Rowe, manager of member and public relations for Randolph EMC. "We both wondered who would ever want to go down there when it's gone? When we arrived at the site, you would not believe the people on the road. We walked about one mile from where the traffic had stopped. Hundreds of people were walking along the road in both directions. That's when I realized how much it meant to the people of our county. It's something many have taken for granted as always being there. But it's a little like the song — '. . .you never know what you've got 'til it's gone.'"

Commenting on the crowd who mourned the bridge that day in August, Dave Rowe said, "If they had charged a dollar a person they could have built a new bridge." Then he added, "The people of our community want the bridge back and are willing to put their money where their mouth is!"

J.J. Welch built the 51-foot wooden bridge over a branch of the Little River in 1911 for $40. It was one of only two covered bridges left in the state (the other is on private property in Catawba County). The North Carolina Zoological Society, a non-profit support organization for the N.C. Zoological Park in Asheboro, is raising $80,000 to rebuild the bridge and its surrounding area.

This isn't the first time the Zoological Society has come

to the bridge's rescue. The bridge fell into disrepair soon after a new road bypassed its importance in 1950. By the 1990s, the bridge's safety became an issue. In 1998, the society initiated efforts to refurbish the bridge and build hiking trails, picnic areas and parking nearby. The society partnered with the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT), the Piedmont Land Conservancy and the LandTrust for Central North Carolina, as well as the Pisgah community. The project was completed in 1999. These same partners are helping the society rebuild the bridge.

David Jones, director of the N.C. Zoo, noticed the importance of the bridge when he first came upon it in 1994. "It was a wonderful old bridge being misused and in a dangerously dilapidated state. I had a unique personal feeling about the bridge, and how this man-made structure set so perfectly in a gorgeous natural setting could help the area."

This time, however, the bridge must be completely rebuilt. After the floodwaters receded, volunteers, including Randolph EMC employees, waded into the stream and walked into adjacent woods to recover lumber that had formed the bridge's floor, sides and roof. According to the N.C. Zoo, about three-fourths of the bridge was salvaged and stored, but only about half can be used.

The society chose to hire Pisgah native William Moffitt as construction contractor. To supplement the salvaged material, Moffitt asked local tobacco farmers to donate aged lumber from tobacco barns for the reconstruction.

The reconstruction will include adding strength to the bridge by using concrete pillars and steel reinforcements. "Replacing the wooden sideboarding is fairly easy and inexpensive," said David Jones. "The cost comes in adding strength to the bridge so it won't float away again. The flood reached three feet above the bridge floor, and then lifted it off the foundation. We hope the bridge will be around for another 92 years."

Moffitt will cover the steel and concrete materials with the donated wood so the bridge will keep its original, authentic appearance. Moffitt consulted with current and retired DOT engineers about the original bridge design, and sought advice from two local gentlemen, ages 85 and 98, who remember what the original bridge looked like. Because of these conversations, the bridge roof will have wooden shingles, not the tin placed in 1998.

The completion date for the restoration has been set for Easter 2004. "When the dogwoods bloom again," said Jones.

Since becoming director of the N.C. Zoo almost 10 years ago, Jones has initiated a campaign to promote the Uwharrie Forest region, which includes Asheboro, Randolph County and the surrounding area, as the "Central Park of North Carolina." The area offers recreational, historic and natural sites that citizens from Charlotte, the Triad and the Triangle can reach within a one-hour drive.

The Pisgah Covered Bridge was a part of the region's tourist landscape. "On a nice weekend afternoon, more than 200 people drove to that bridge," Jones said. "The bridge's economic impact had been estimated in the tens of thousands of dollars, and growing. In this area, even the smallest economic impact helps when local textile mills are closing. Those drivers were also visiting the zoo, Seagrove potteries and other area attractions, spending money at local restaurants and shops, adding to the economic base."

Jones believes that saving the bridge may, in the long run, help save a community.

Photo by Dave Rowe

Photo by Dave Rowe

Photo by Tom Gillespie

Photo by Tom Gillespie

Did you know? In the 1930s, more than 50 covered bridges were in use in Randolph County alone.

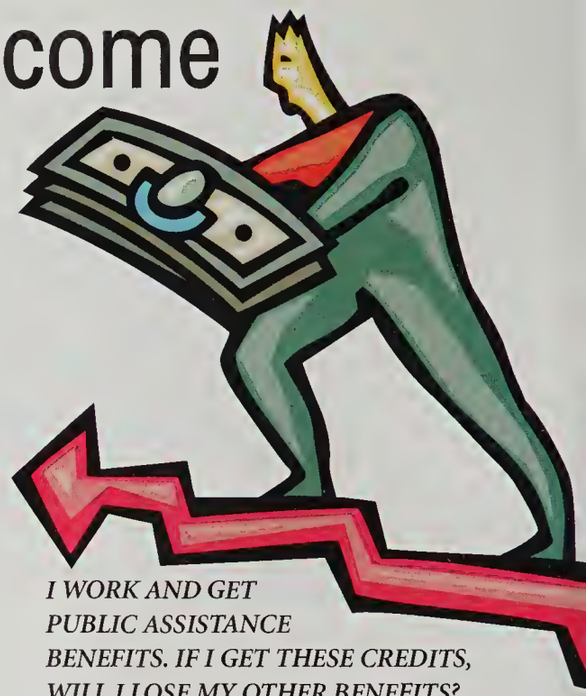
To help rebuild the Pisgah Covered Bridge, send donations to the N.C. Zoological Society at 4403 Zoo Parkway, Asheboro, NC 27205, and designate the check to the Pisgah Covered Bridge Project. Or call (336) 879-7250. For more information, see the Web site at www.nczoo.org or the society Web site at www.nczoo.com.

Above, left: Pisgah Covered Bridge, prior to the rainstorm in August 2003 that tore it apart.

Right, 1, 2, 4: After the Pisgah Covered Bridge was destroyed, Randolph EMC volunteered to help clean up and salvage its pieces. The cooperative will be involved in the reconstruction, too. Once the bridge is ready to be placed, Randolph EMC will help lay the timbers. Co-op workers involved in the clean-up were Scott Murray, Shannon Fesmire, Brice Long, Jimmy Lanier and Dave Rowe.

Right, 3: The only remnant of the bridge, its foundation, that survived the storm.

Tax CREDITS for low-income workers and families



Questions & Answers

When filing your federal income tax return for 2003, remember to check for tax credits that may apply to you. Three credits that might be of interest to you are the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit and the Advanced Earned Income Tax Credit.

WHAT IS THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT?

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. The credit reduces the amount of federal tax you owe. When the EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit. Even workers who aren't raising a child can get the EITC. Even if you don't owe income tax you can get the EITC. But, you must file a tax return.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT?

You must:

- Have a valid Social Security number
- Be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year
- Have earned income
- Be at least age 25 but under age 65 (if you do not have a qualifying child)

You are NOT eligible if you:

- Are married filing separately
- File Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ
- Have investment income over $2,600
- Are a qualifying child of another person

WHAT ARE THE INCOME LIMITS AND TAX CREDIT AMOUNTS?

- Workers with one child who earn less than $29,666 in 2003 (or less than $30,666 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to $2,547.
- Workers with two or more children who earn less than $33,692 in 2003 (or less than $34,692 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to $4,204.
- Workers without a qualifying child who earn less than $11,230 in 2003 (or less than $12,230 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to $382.

WHAT IS A "QUALIFYING CHILD"?

A qualifying child cannot be used by more than one person to claim the EITC. A qualifying child is one who is

- Claimed as your dependent
- Under age 17 at the end of 2003
- Your son, daughter, adopted child, grandchild, stepchild, or eligible foster child
- A U.S. citizen or resident

WHAT IF I'M NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?

Many immigrants are eligible for the EITC, including Green Card holders, refugees and others legally authorized to work. To claim the EITC, workers and any child claimed for the EIC must have a valid Social Security number. The credit does not affect your immigration status.

I WORK AND GET PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS. IF I GET THESE CREDITS, WILL I LOSE MY OTHER BENEFITS?

The EITC does not count as income in determining eligibility for Food Stamps, SSI, Medicaid, cash assistance, or public housing. The Child Tax Credit does not count for any federally-funded benefit program.

WHAT IS THE CHILD TAX CREDIT?

By claiming a Child Tax Credit, you may be able to reduce the federal tax you owe by $1,000 for each qualifying child who was under the age 17 in 2003. See the requirements listed above for a "qualifying child."

WHAT IS THE ADVANCED EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (AEITC)?

If you expect to be eligible for EITC for tax year 2003, you may request AEITC payments which enable you to receive a portion of the credit in your regular paycheck throughout 2004. (The AEITC is not available to workers who do not have a qualifying child.) To get the AEITC payments, ask your employer for Form W-5 (Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate), complete the form and give the lower part to your employer. You also can get the W-5 by calling (800)TAX-FORM.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

You may figure the EITC yourself by following instructions on page 21 of Internal Revenue Service Publication 596. You may also ask the IRS to figure it for you, or use the services of a tax professional, or get free assistance from a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. To find their closest VITA site, taxpayers may call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

The Popcorn King

of Yadkin Valley

By Carla Burgess

After Hurricane Hugo blew through the western Piedmont in September 1989, Cas Booe could barely walk among the mature cornstalks on his Yadkinville popcorn farm, let alone drive a combine through to harvest it. So he tested an idea. He hand-picked a few ears from the prostrate stalks, took them into the house and put a whole ear into the microwave. The kernels popped. Popcorn-on-the-cob.

With the help of an exporter that fall, Booe (pronounced "boo") found a market in Japan for popcorn-on-the-cob. In the meantime, his grandfather picked sacks of ears to sell locally. The Booes managed to salvage some of their crop while cultivating a new specialty market overseas.

Today, Cas Booe, 36, sells his Yadkin Valley Popcorn all over the globe—on the cob, unpopped or already-popped and seasoned. It's sold ready-to-eat in gourmet tins and pillow-sized plastic bags and ready-to-pop in 1-ton sacks that are forklifted onto trucks bound for wholesalers. You can go into a Winn Dixie or a Lowes Foods and find Yadkin Valley Popcorn.

Shallowford Farms had a modest beginning in 1987—an experiment to grow popcorn on 50 acres of family farmland. At the time, Booe was earning a bachelor's degree in crop science from North Carolina State University. By his graduation in 1990, he'd invested in the equipment to process corn. In 1997, Booe bought poppers, conveyors and other gear to pop the corn and package it, making Shallowford Farms a one-stop pop shop.

Shallowford Farms sells popcorn in nearly every shape, flavor and color—including cheese, grape, jalapeno, green apple and butter rum.

The company's cheese flavor has won a national "best popcorn" award. But Booe and his wife, Mandy, 34, say the "better butter" is their favorite. Marketed as "movie popcorn," the seasoning is a secret formula created exclusively for the Shallowford Farms.

Growing and processing popcorn

On a catwalk high in the plant, the air outside the poppers is hot and dry, permeated by a buttery mist. Each of the two hot-air poppers can pop 650 pounds of kernels in an hour. Unpopped kernels, called "old maids," are expelled. The popped corn is ejected into a rotating tumbler where the seasonings are applied. Then the fluffy snack goes up a conveyor, into a sorting bin and down through chutes. Several workers catch the still-warm corn in plastic bags, which they seal immediately and stack into shipping boxes.

At the other end of the plant, floor-to-ceiling equipment conveys tons of kernels into the building from the row of outdoor storage bins. The noise of the machinery is like water falling from a massive dam, and the air is a spray of dust.

continued on p. 24

A fourth-generation Yadkinville farm ships popcorn throughout the world

Photos by Carla Burgess

An electronic eye scans the river of kernels and kicks out any with inferior color or texture. The incoming grain has been cured and conditioned so that it contains the ideal moisture content for popping.

It's the water inside the kernel that separates popcorn from field corn—a droplet encircled with soft starch inside a hard outer coating. When heated to about 400 degrees, the water turns to steam, expands and ruptures the wall—in effect turning the kernel inside out and cooking the starch into a pillowy, edible treat.

There are two types of popcorn, named for their shape: snowflake and mushroom. Snowflake, with its ragged edges, is the kind served in movie theaters and sold to consumers. The mushroom kernal "balls up" when it pops, says Booe. Its relatively uniform surface makes mushroom popcorn ideal for caramel or candy coating.

Booe guesses the company sells about 20 percent of its product already popped. Most all the corn leaves the plant on the same day it is popped. "We like to get it straight from the popper to the truck," he says, adding that the shelf life of popped product is about 90 days.

Above, from left: Surry-Yadkin EMC members Cas and Mandy Booe grow their corn at Shallowford Farms and then ship the resulting popcorn all over the world.

You can purchase Yadkin Valley Popcorn from your local Lowes or Winn Dixie.

Cas displays a product from his farm's on-site store where tourists can purchase fresh popcorn and paraphernalia, like T-shirts, hats and more.

Booe grows about 700 acres of popcorn on land he owns or leases. He contracts with North Carolina farmers to grow most of the remainder of the corn the company processes. In addition, he also employs 15 people full-time at the plant. Shallowford Farms was a charter member of Goodness Grows in North Carolina, an agriculture marketing program that raises awareness about top-quality products grown, processed or manufactured here.

It's the water inside the kernal that separates popcorn from field corn—a droplet encircled with soft starch inside a hard outer coating. When heated to about 400 degrees, the water turns to steam, expands and ruptures the wall—in effect turning the kernel inside out and cooking the starch into a pillowy, edible treat.

North Carolina is a ways off the beaten path of the Corn Belt in the Midwest, where most popcorn is grown. But the conditions are just as favorable here, says Booe.

"It's a good crop," he says. "Popcorn doesn't require as much fertilizer and arguably not as much water."

Until Booe got rolling, processing also was a novelty in this region too—not just North Carolina but in the southeastern United States. The biggest popcorn-growing states are Nebraska and Indiana, and the nearest processors are Kentucky, Pennsylvania and southern Indiana. There are only 19 major processors in the country, according to the latest Census of Agriculture (1997). Those include processors that handle more than 4 million pounds of popcorn a year, and Booe is one of them.

Marketing the Popcorn King

"You're looking at the popcorn king of the Southeast," says Shallowford's marketing director Jeff Leonard, grinning and motioning toward his old friend. Leonard, former president of Foltz Concrete Pipe Co. and owner of Pipeline Motorsports, has used his racing connections as a marketing tool to increase name-brand awareness for Booe's popcorn in the South. Leonard's stepson, Zach Brewer, drives the Yadkin Valley Popcorn Pontiac. Leonard also courted chains of supermarkets—Ingles, Winn Dixie, Lowes Foods and Publix—to sell the company's gourmet popped corn in store delis.

"They like the fact that we don't just make the product and then just ship it," says Leonard. "We get the consumer's attention. We set up the racecar in the parking lots of supermarkets. Consumers come by to see the car, meet Zach, get an autograph and sample the popcorn."

Shallowford Farms is also getting piggyback attention from the federally designated Yadkin Valley Wine Trail—a collection of wineries and vineyards scattered among historical sites in the Piedmont. The farm has an on-site store where tourists can purchase fresh popcorn and paraphernalia, along with T-shirts,

hats, gift baskets and decorative tins (with college and professional sports team themes and, of course, NASCAR) and other souvenirs.

The farm itself is part of the important agricultural heritage of the region. It was the site of the first grade A dairy in Yadkin County, built by Booe's great-grandfather to service the historic Biltmore Dairy Farms in Asheville. Booe's grandfather continued in the dairy business, but farming skipped a generation with Booe's father, who pursued a career in snack food distribution. So it seems fitting that Caswell Booe III melded the two interests to make his fortune.

The youngest Booe collected his first profit as a farmer at age 11. He sold a truckload of his homegrown watermelons to the K&W Cafeteria in nearby Winston-Salem. He needed his father to drive him there. But Cas went inside and made the pitch to the manager himself, who "couldn't say no to a little kid." He left about $400 richer and continued growing watermelons, cantaloupes and pumpkins as a summer pastime.

Booe's hobby taught him the value of diversifying. In addition to full-circle popcorn production, the company is involved in branding of products and distribution of a variety of snack foods, including Bickel's potato chips.

Still, the "popcorn king" hasn't gotten too big for his tractor seat. For him, working in the open air is still one of the most enjoyable parts of the business. In June, Booe and one other person planted 500 acres of corn in a grueling eight days straight. He recalls it with a mix of fondness and awe. The harvest keeps him busy September through Thanksgiving. It's a satisfying yield for someone who began with a few kernels of initiative.

Freelancer Carla Burgess wrote about Hyde County's Mattanuskeet Sweet onions in the June 2003 Carolina Country.

Tour information

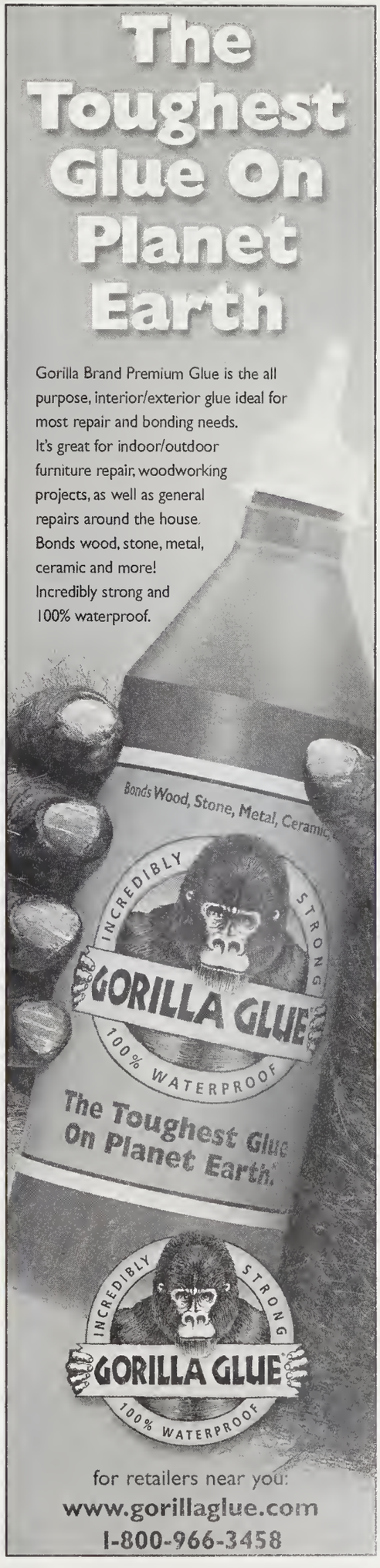
To schedule a tour for 10 or more people, call (336) 463-5938. Tours are available year-round between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Cost is $3 per person. Each guest receives a bag of freshly popped corn at the end of the tour.

Chili Corn

- 4 quarts popped popcorn
- 3 small dried red chilies
- 1 package (6 ¾ ounce) peanuts
- 6 tablespoons margarine
- 1 package (3 ¼ ounce) roasting pepitas (little peppers)
- ¾ teaspoon garlic salt

Heat popped popcorn, if it is cold, in oven. Cook chilies and peanuts in margarine over low heat for 5 minutes; remove chilies. Add pepitas and pour over hot corn; season with garlic.

—Recipe from the U.S. Popcorn Board, www.popcorn.org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COW CARDS

Wake Forest artist Mary Margaret Steele's cow cards capture the sweet appeal of these four-legged friends. Her set of eight notecards features different cow drawings and is packaged in a black and white cellophane bag tied with a black ribbon. The cards are blank inside and can be used for holidays, birthdays, thank-you notes or just to say hello to someone special.

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GOODNESS GRACIE

This Wilmington gourmet food company sells tin, buckets and bags full o specialty cookies and salty pecans. The Celebration Basket contains two 3-ounce bags of toffee cookies and an 8-ounce tin of pecans wrapped i festive cellophane and tied with a box for $24.95. The Christmas Stack contains one 12-ounce tin of toffee cookies and one 8-ounce tin of pecans for $31.95. A 6-ounce plaid tin of toffee cookies is $6.95.

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"T IS FOR TAR HEEL"

This light-hearted pictorial book is the latest addition to the Discover America State by State series. From A-Z, the simple poems educate and entertain younger readers, while sidebars give older readers more in-depth information. The two-tied approach introduces readers to Seagrove pottery, Flat Rock, the Lost Colony of Roanoke Island, Kill Devil Hills, and Plott Hounds. When they reach the letter "Z," readers know a lot more about their home state. Also included are trivia questions about the Tar Heel State. Hardcover, 38 pages, color illustrations, $17.95. Published by Sleeping Bear Press in Michigan. Call (800) 487-2323, ext. 222 or visit www.sleepingbearpress.com

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Glenwood Farms in Duplin County is among many working farms across North Carolina that educates while it produces. The 100-acre business, which showcases N.C. agriculture in a way that is fun for kids and adults, offers a Christmas tour through Dec. 23. The farm has a petting zoo, fish house, playgound and gift shop with farm merchandise. It is located about 10 miles from Faison and another mile from Rones Chapel community. Glenwood Farms is open Monday through Friday for tours, by reservation. It is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until dark and on Sundays from 1 p.m. until dark.

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A heart full of love, a purse full of pennies, and Christmas just hours away - that was the dilemma of O'Henry's heroine on a long-ago Christmas Eve. "The Gift of the Magi: Retold in Rhyme," by West Jefferson writer Virginia Hege Tobiassen, is seasoned with the emotional punch of poetry: "And now, for all her bargaining, so little in her store, Three times she counted all the coins, but there was nothing more." This retelling of a holiday classic is a read-aloud tale for families over the holiday season. Tobiassen is also the author of "A Christmas Carol Retold In Rhyme," and "A Christmas Gift for Old Jasper," which she also performs to audiences. Softcover, 39 pages, $12.95. Published by The Ashe Street House.

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HOLIDAY PRINT

"Happy Holidays" depicts a scenic place in the mountains west of Sparta, where Stratford Road dead-ends into Walnut Branch Road. Artist "Cotton" Ketchie personally signs each print, which measures 7 1/4 inches by 10 inches, and costs $20. "Happy Holidays" is also available on Christmas cards. A box of 12 cards and envelopes is $12.

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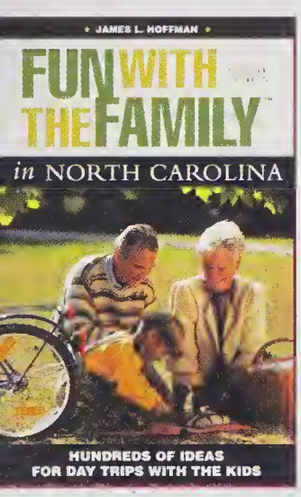
"FUN WITH THE FAMILY"

Written by a parent for parents, this personal guide leads the ways to North Carolina's amusement parks, hiking trails, aquariums, children's museums, festivals, parks and zoos. Information includes maps, reference icons, age-appropriate guidelines, kid-friendly restaurants, places to stay overnight, descriptions of amenities, and services with contact information. Attractions are tailored toward children ages 2-12. Published by Globe Pequot Press of Guilford, Ct. $12.95.



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This photographic, 160-page book doubles as a biography of the famed Wright brothers and a visual introduction to the history of early aviation. Many of the softcover book's 140 black and white photos were taken by either Wilbur or Orville, and come from the brothers' personal collection. The book describes the founding of the Wright Company in the U.S. and France, the brothers' preparation and experiments, their celebrated tour of Italy and Germany and Orville's decision to sell the company. "Kitty Hawk and Beyond: The Wright Brothers and the Early Years of Aviation" sells for $19.95. Roberts Rinehart Publishers in Maryland.

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Personal computing advice by Reid Goldsborough

When is it time to buy a new PC?

If you don't keep up with the latest in PC hardware, will you get left behind? Or should you follow the maxim, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"?

How to best decide when it's time to replace your PC, or those in your office or company, is always tricky. Spending on computers can make you more productive, but it's money you otherwise can't spend, invest, or save, and faster systems always await you in the future.

What is clear is that the computer industry really wants you to buy, and the computer publishing industry does too. In ads as well as articles, the emphasis is always on the latest and greatest. Healthy spending has fueled the PC revolution, but it may not necessarily be healthy for your bottom line.

Not everybody buys into the dictum that yesterday's technology is a liability. Being on the cutting edge, in fact, can make you bleed. New technology is and will always be buggier than the tried and true.

Yet there are good reasons for spending on new computer hardware. It will let you run the latest software, which typically has more features and is easier to use than older programs, though this reason is less compelling than it used to be.

Most of today's software is "mature," with newer versions being only incrementally different from their predecessors, unlike in the past when software improved markedly with each new release. Brand new software, like new hardware, can also be buggy.

Sometimes it seems that the software industry is in cahoots with the hardware industry, conspiring against you and your budget. Software companies such as Microsoft typically limit or even stop their support for older software. If you want the latest protection against hackers, you're forced to upgrade to the latest operating system, which in turn forces you to upgrade to the latest hardware.

Most people today hang onto personal computers longer than they have in the past, often for four years or longer. One tactic the PC industry uses is to try to convince buyers that desktop and laptop computers older than three years should be replaced because their components such as hard drives at that point will begin to fail with greater frequency.

This does in fact make sense if you're not diligent about backing up your data, says Rob Enderle, principal analyst for the Enderle Group of San Jose, Cal. "Data is lifeblood. It can make the difference between whether you're in business or out of business."

But even fragile components such as hard drives have longer life expectancies than three years, and individual components such as hard drives, monitors and mice can be incrementally replaced. Upgrading on a piecemeal basis can be considerably less expensive than buying a spanking new system. It can also be fun to modernize an old clunker, particularly if you're the type who likes to tinker.

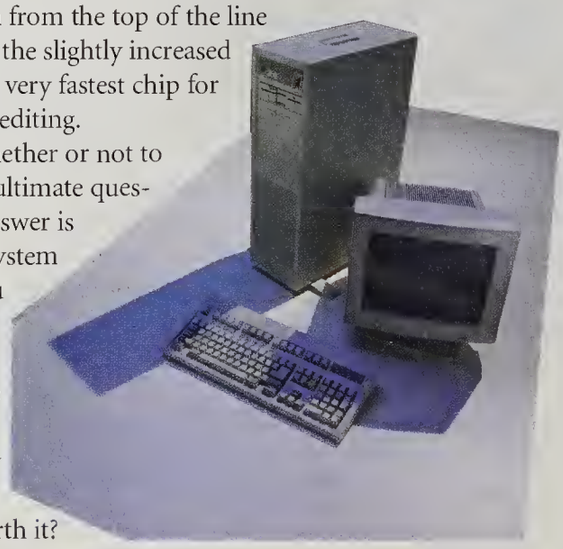
On the other hand, opening up a PC and poking around its innards can strike fear into all but the most technosavvy. Though they usually go smoothly, even seemingly simple upgrades can be fraught with time-devouring surprises.

What's more, replacing individual components will usually leave you with a system that's slower than a new system in which all the components are matched with one another. A brand new system will also give you a brand new warranty.

One rule of thumb is that upgraded components should cost less than 40 percent of the price of a new system. If you have to pay more, it's usually more cost-effective to sell your old system, or give it away, and buy a new one.

One intangible benefit to a screaming new machine is bragging rights, though this lasts only until new PCs with the next new CPU hit the market. In an organizational setting, new computers can boost employee morale, along with the more tangible benefit of lowering IT support and maintenance costs.

When buying a new computer, it's most cost-effective to opt for the "sweet spot" — a CPU one to three notches down from the top of the line — unless you need the slightly increased performance of the very fastest chip for tasks such as video editing.



In deciding whether or not to buy a new PC, the ultimate question you need to answer is this: Will the new system let you or those you work with work more efficiently, or in the case of home systems used for entertainment, play more pleasurably, and is the price worth it?

Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book "Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway." He can be reached at reidgold@netaxs.com or http://www.netaxs.com/~reidgold/column.

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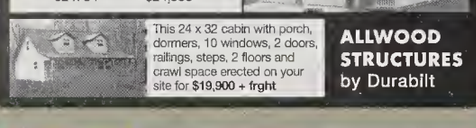
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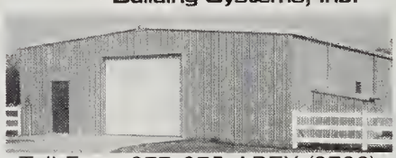
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Miss Fitts

Use the capital letters below to decode the gag above.

"ABCDE FGH ILOTR" means
p o w e r a n d l i g h t

answers on page 32

MATCH BOXES

Match the boxes above with the boxes below to find what George Washington might have said to trooops who were reluctant to cross the Delaware River on Christmas night, 1776.

s	c	r	a	m	b	l	e
A	E	G	I	O	R	T	V

r	c	l

m	e	c	b

a	l

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_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
l r c s m b b

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
a b m e l l m l c c

Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks above.

"B E H I O S T U" means
s c r a m b l e

Say WATT?

Starting with one S and ending with another, move from letter to adjacent letter in any direction to unscramble two hidden words. Use each letter only once.

N	G	R	E
S	O	S	E
S	E	T	G
A	I	N	S

S _ _ _ _ _ _ ' _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ S

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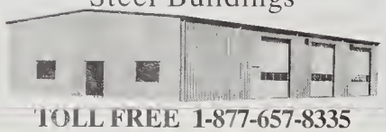

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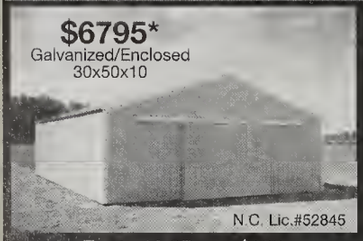

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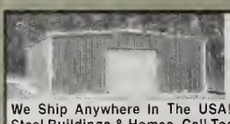

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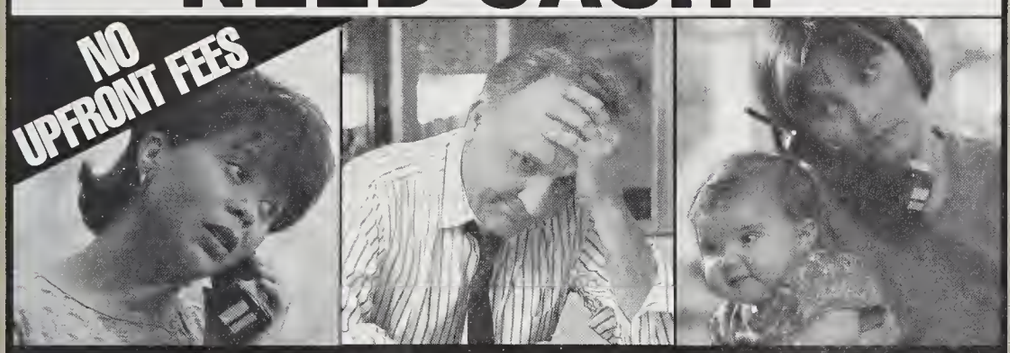

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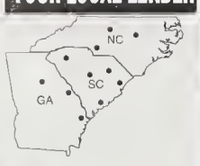

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December EVENTS

MOUNTAINS
(west of I-77)

Christmas Art Show
Through Dec. 21. Belmont.
(704) 829-0360.
www.jspottery.com

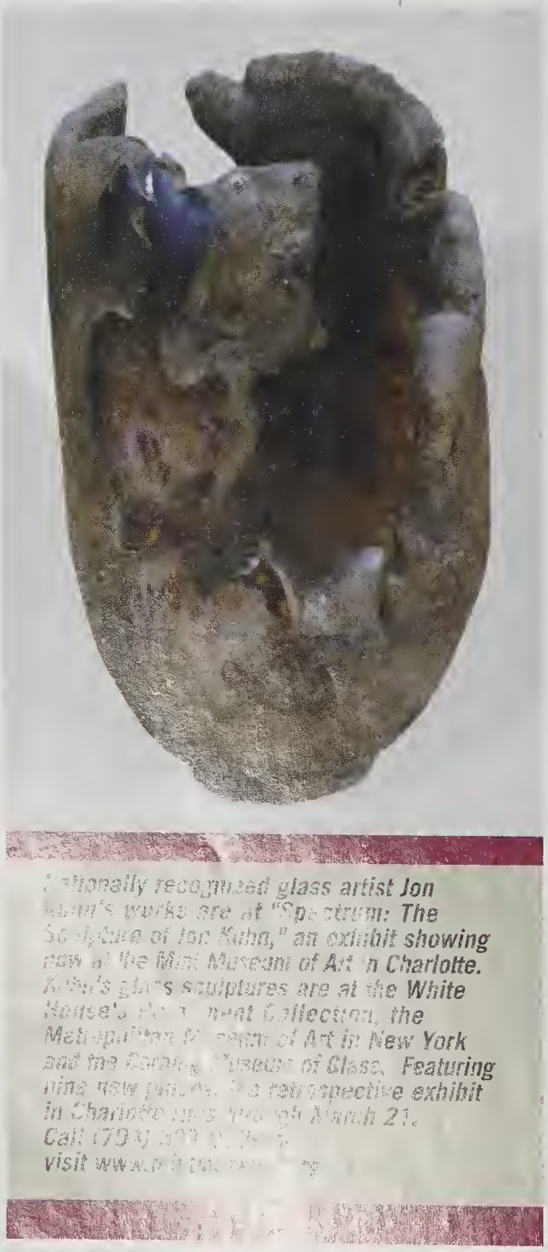
RR Museum Open House
Dec. 1. Cherryville.
(704) 735-9178.

"The Tailor of Gloucester"
Dec. 2. West Jefferson.
(336) 246-ARTS.
www.ashecountyarts.org

Santa's Toyland
Dec. 5, 12, 19. Shelby.
(704) 484-6200.
www.ibank@fmb.com

Horsedrawn Carriages
Dec. 5, 12, 19. Shelby.
(704) 484-3100.

Blue Ridge Christmas
Dec. 6. Hendersonville.
(828) 694-1700.



Jon Kuhn's works are at "Spectrum: The Sculpture of Jon Kuhn," an exhibit showing now at the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte. Kuhn's glass sculptures are at the White House's permanent collection, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Corning Museum of Glass. Featuring nine new pieces, the retrospective exhibit in Charlotte runs through March 21. Call (704) 337-2000 or visit www.mint.org.

Open House
Dec. 6. West Jefferson.
(336) 246-ARTS.
www.ashecountyarts.org

Christmas Tour of Homes
Dec. 6. Bessemer City.
(704) 629-2163.

Potters Market
Dec. 6. Marion.
(828) 652-8610.

Holiday Tour of Homes
Dec. 5-7.
Statesville.
(704) 878-3436.
www.downtownstatesvillenc.org

"A Night Before Christmas"
Dec. 6, 13.
Waynesville.
(828) 456-3517.

Choral Concert
Dec. 7. West Jefferson.
336-246-ARTS.
www.ashecountyarts.org

Candlelight Tour
Dec. 7.
Hillsborough.
(888) 968-2060.
www.chocvb.org

"The Littlest Angel"
Dec. 9. Spindale.
(828) 286-9990.
www.FoundationShows.org

Gallery Crawl
Dec. 11. Hickory.
(828) 267-0864.

Kids Star Night
Dec. 12. Shelby.
(704) 484-7000.
www.shelbystar.com

Homes Tour
Dec. 14. Murphy.
(828) 837-6821.
www.heritagepartners.org

Possum Drop
Dec. 31. Brasstown.
(828) 837-3797.

Smith-McDowell Museum
Ongoing. Asheville.
Dec. 21, "Victorian Christmas"
(828) 253-9231.
www.wnchistory.org

Schiele Museum
Ongoing. Gastonia.
Through December, "High Seas to High Shoals"
(704) 866-6909.
www.schielemuseum.org

Mount Airy Museum of Regional History
Ongoing. Mount Airy.
Through Jan. 2004, "Still Life"
(336) 786-4478.
www.northcarolinamuseum.org

Asheville Art Museum
Ongoing. Asheville.
(828) 253-3227.
www.ashevilleart.org

Caldwell County Heritage Museum
Ongoing. Lenoir.
(828) 758-4004.

Historical Museum
Ongoing. Kings Mountain.
(704) 739-1019.

Cradle of Forestry
Ongoing. Brevard.
(828) 877-3130.

PIEDMONT
(between I-77 and I-95)

"Walker Evans"
Through Jan. 10. Durham.
Free. (919) 660-3663.

Lighted Hayride
Nov. 29-Dec. 23. Mount Olive.
(919) 658-2288.
www.glenwoodfarms.net

Storybook Christmas Trees
Dec. 2-6. Gastonia.
(704) 865-3291.

Christmas Treasures
Dec. 3. Winston-Salem.
(336) 721-7331.
www.oldsalem.org

Singing Christmas Tree
Dec. 3-7. Fayetteville
Free. (910) 484-3191.

Christmas Parade
Dec. 4. Oakboro.
(704) 485-3612.

David Cassidy
Dec. 5. Fayetteville.
(910) 323-5088.
www.crowncoliseum.com

Festival Of Carols
Dec. 5-6. Winston-Salem.
Free. (336)722-4022.
www.piedmontchambersingers.org

Open House, Harmony House
Dec. 6. White Oak.
(910) 866-4844.
www.bladencounty.com/harmonyhall.htm

Blue Christmas at the Brock
Dec. 6. Mocksville.
(336) 751-3000.
www.daviearts.org

Dublin Christmas Concert
Dec. 6. Yanceyville.
(336) 694-4591.

"The Nutcracker"
Dec. 7, 13-14. Fayetteville.
(910) 323-5088.
www.crowncoliseum.com

DECEMBER EVENTS

Craft Show
Dec. 7. Hillsborough.
(919) 245-3330.

Candlelight Tour
Dec. 7. Hillsborough.
(919) 732-8156.
www.candlelighttour.com

Christmas Tour of Homes
Dec. 7. Fayetteville.
(910) 483-6009.

"The Littlest Angel"
Dec. 8. Mocksville.
(336) 751.3000.
www.daviearts.org

Mercedes Gala
Dec. 8 Hickory.
(828) 324-4906.
www.catawba-arts.org

Open House
Dec. 11-14. Southern Pines.
(910) 692-2051.

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tour@duplintourism.org
www.duplintourism.org

"Love in Ruins"
Dec. 11-14. Fayetteville.
(910) 678-7186.
www.theartscouncil.com/gilbert

Christmas At Latta
Dec. 13-14. Huntersville.
(704) 875-2312.
www.lattaplantation.org.

Candlelight Tour of Lofts
Dec. 14. Fayetteville.
(910) 829-9171.

Cowboy Christmas Rodeo
Dec. 12-14. Raleigh.
(704) 882-8894.

Giannini Holiday
Dec. 16. Winston-Salem.
(336) 721-1945.
www.gianninibrass.com

Moravian Christmas
Dec. 27. Winston-Salem.
(888) 653-7253.
www.oldsalem.org

Kwanzaa
December 27. Fayetteville.
Free. (910) 488-7130.

Airborne & Special Operations Museum
Ongoing. Fayetteville.
Dec. 19-May 26, "U.S. Involvement"
(910) 483-3003.
www.asomf.org

Charlotte Museum of History
Ongoing. Charlotte.
Through April, 2004, "Eagles"
(704) 568-1774.
www.charlottemuseum.org

Oakboro Regional Museum
Ongoing. Oakboro.
Ongoing, Ledbetter Ford Site
(704) 485-3612.

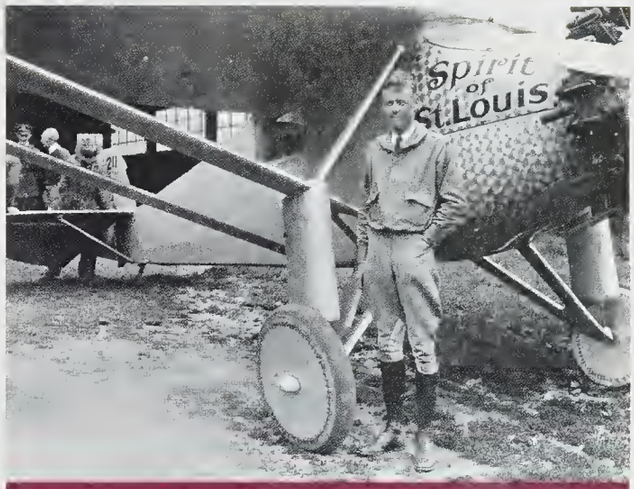
Museum of Life and Science
Ongoing. Durham.
Through Jan. 5, 2004
"Natural History Machines"
(919) 220-5429.
www.ncmls.org

Discovery Place
Through Feb. 6.
Charlotte.
"Speed" exhibit.
(704) 372-6261.

N.C. Museum of Art
Ongoing.
Raleigh.
Through March 7, "Defying Gravity"
(919) 839-6262.
www.ncartmuseum.org

Chapel Hill Museum
Ongoing.
Chapel Hill.
(919) 967-1400.
www.chapelhillmuseum.org

Ackland Art Museum
Ongoing.
Chapel Hill.
(919) 966-5736.



A free exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh showcases Charles A. Lindbergh, his historic 1927 transatlantic flight and his resulting celebrity. Visitors discover why Lindbergh captured the world's fascination, and learn how the unprecedented global response affected his life and work. The exhibit, which showcases more than 400 artifacts, is set to run through February 1, 2004. Another exhibit at the museum, "Pioneers of Aviation," brings to life North Carolina inventors, daredevils, military aces, astronauts, and commercial aviators through artifacts, photographs, and videos. It runs through 2004. Call (919) 715-0200 or visit www.ncmuseumofhistory.org.

COAST
(east of I-95)

Lighted Farm Hayride
Through Dec. 23. Faison.
(919) 658-2288.
www.glenwoodfarms.net/

Homes Tour
Dec. 4. Hertford
(252) 426-5428.

Caroling on the Courthouse Green
Dec. 5. Hertford.
(252) 426-5593.

Holiday Music
Dec. 5. Washington.
(252) 940-0981.

"The Golden Age of Operetta"
Dec. 5. Oriental.
(252) 249-3362.
www.pamlicomusic.org

Core Sound Waterfowl Weekend
Dec. 5-7
Harkers Island
Core Sound Waterfowl Museum
(252) 728-1500.
www.coresound.com

Homes Tour
Dec. 6. Edenton.
(800) 775-0111.

Kids Crafts Fair
Dec. 6. Williamston.
(252) 792-1539.

Christmas Parade
Dec. 6. Hertford.
(252) 426-5657.

Christmas Open House
Dec. 6. Newton Grove.
(910) 594-0789.

Swan Days Festival
Dec. 6-7. Swan Quarter.
(888) 493-3826.
www.hydecounty.org

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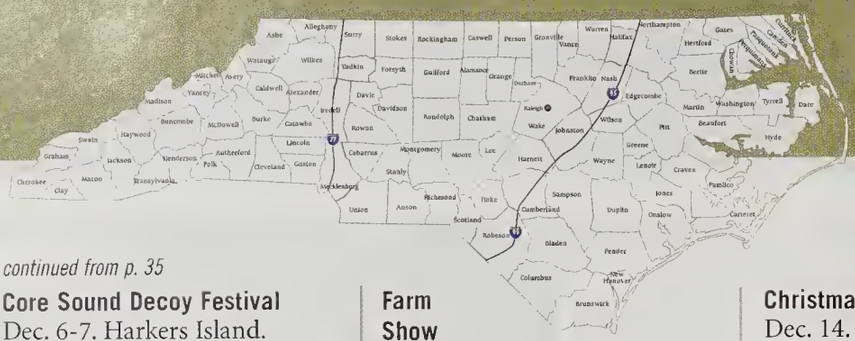
MOUNTAINS PIEDMONT COAST



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Core Sound Decoy Festival
Dec. 6-7. Harkers Island.
Harkers Island School.
(252) 838-8818.

5th Annual Cookie Walk
Dec. 6. New Bern.
(252) 636-0202.

Christmas Traditions
Dec. 6. Elizabeth City.
(252) 335-1453.

Homes Tour
Dec. 6-7. Warrenton.
(252) 257-2558.

Open House, Popular Grove
Dec. 7. Scott's Hill.
(910)686-9518.
www.poplargrove.com

Candlelight Tour
Dec. 8-9. Murfreesboro.
(252) 398-5922.

Farm Show
Dec. 9-11.
Williamston.
(252) 792-5111.

Christmas Tour of Homes
Dec. 10. Ahoskie.
(252) 332-2042.

Bethlehem Walk
Dec. 11-13. Arapahoe.
(252) 249-1630.

Candlelight Tour
Dec. 12-13. Edenton.
(800) 775-0111.

Holiday Festivities
Dec. 12-13. Edenton.
(800) 775-0111.

Aviation Film Festival
Dec. 13-17. Manteo.
(252) 475-1506.

Christmas Parade
Dec. 14. Aurora.
(252) 322-4188.

Colonial Christmas
Dec. 19. Hertford.
(252) 426-7567.

Cape Fear Museum
Ongoing. Wilmington.
Through Jan. 4, 2004
"How Things Work"
(910) 341-4350.
www.capefearmuseum.com

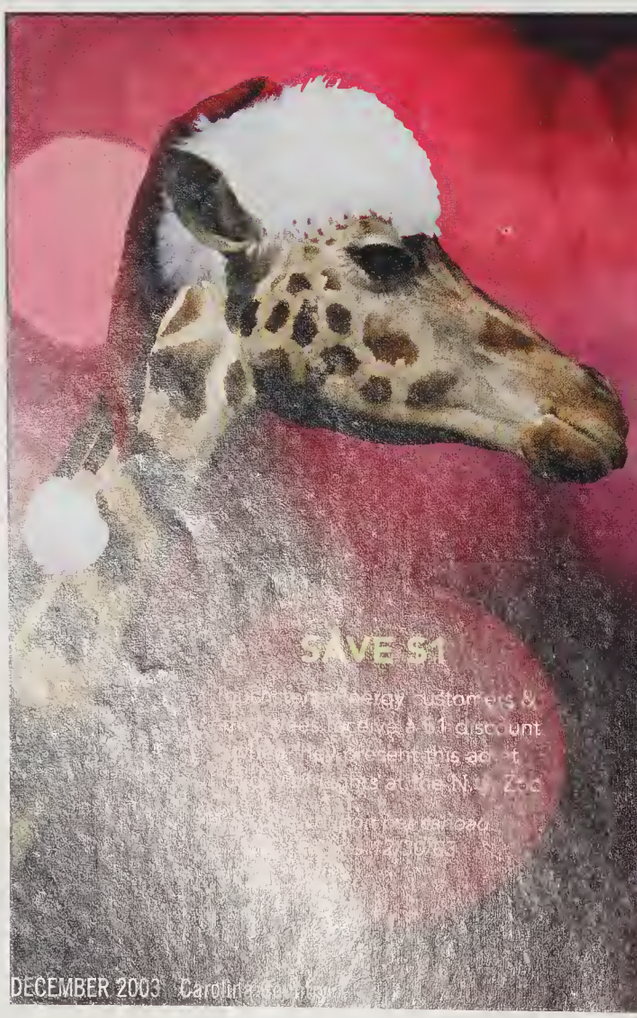
Core Sound Waterfowl Museum
Ongoing. Harkers Island.
(252) 728-1500.
www.coresound.com

LISTING INFORMATION

Deadline for January: November 23 | Deadline for February: December 22

Submit Listings on Our Web Site
Visit www.carolinacountry.com and click on "See NC" to add your event to both the magazine and our Web site.

Or Submit Listings by Mail, Fax or E-mail
Please include title, date(s), location, phone number and/or Web site url. Photos (300 dpi or hard copies) are welcome. Send notices to: Carolina Compass, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611 | Fax: (919) 878-3970 | e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com



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North Carolina ZOO

Origins of holiday traditions

Many North Carolina traditions hark back to Roman, Celtic, German, Dutch and Norse cultures that shaped Great Britain and the American colonies. We ring Christmas bells today to symbolize the news of Christ's birth, but many years ago church bells rang to drive away evil spirits. Singing Christmas carols dates to the early 1500s, and the French word "caroler" means to dance in a ring. Hanging stockings on the mantel for Santa has been traced back to a bishop named Nicholas (St. Nick), who took pity on three girls who had no dowry and couldn't afford to marry. He dropped gold coins down their home's chimney and the money fell into a stocking hung there to dry.

A rural Christmas 100 years ago

Horne Creek Living Historical Farm in Pinnacle is among many North Carolina attractions that offer traditional holiday programs. Its turn-of-the-century celebrations on Dec. 2-3 include period Christmas music, carols, stories, chicken stew, hot cocoa, cider and a visit from "Belsnickle," the German spirit of Christmas. Reservations necessary. Call (336) 325-2298 or visit www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/horne/horne.htm.

Moses B. Cone was known for his North Carolina textile mills and for a piece of clothing we often wear. **What is it?**

ANSWER: Mr. Cone was known as the "Denim King." He put the blue in blue jeans.

DEFYING GRAVITY

"Picasso and Braque," 1992, by Mark Tansey, at the N.C. Museum of Art.

In conjunction with The North Carolina Museum of Art's new exhibition, "Defying Gravity: Contemporary Art and Flight," a variety of creative, detailed lesson plans for fourth-and eighth-grade students and high school students are available. In a "A Different Point of View," fourth-graders discuss how flight has changed our world and imagine what North Carolina looked like from the air when the Wright Brothers flew. In "Flying in Unusual Places," eighth-graders explore artwork depicting flight.

Other plans include helping students create their own flying machines and apply Newton's Laws of Motion. For the free lessons, including slide programs, or to arrange a school tour of the Museum of Art's exhibition in Raleigh, call (919) 839-6262, ext. 2144. Or you can download the lessons at www.ncartmuseum.org/Flight. The museum's exhibition is set to run through March 7, 2004.

classroom chuckle

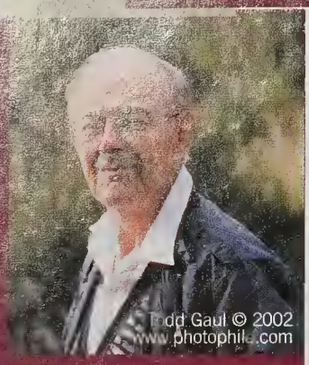
What do elves learn in school?

The elf-abet!

We'd like to hear from you!

If you have suggestions or comments about "Tar Heel Lessons," send e-mail to carolina.country@ncemcs.com, write Carolina Country Tar Heel Lessons, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611, or call (800) 662-8835, ext. 3036.

by Hank Smith



GARDENING FOCUS

Lawn-growing tips

When planning ahead for next season's lawn care, test your soil. The pH balance should be 7.0 or more. A pH of 6.2 to 6.7 puts the lawn at risk for fungal diseases. If pH is too low, correct it with liming, best done in the fall. Fertilizer is more available to grass if applied just before a rain. Lime and fertilizer should be applied by spreading half of it as you walk north and south and the other half as you walk east and west. This cuts down on missed areas. Any autumn feeding should be done with a low-nitrogen, slow-acting fertilizer.

In areas where tree roots compete with grass, apply extra fertilizer to benefit both. Moss and sorrel in lawns usually indicate poor soil, poor aeration or drainage, or excessive acidity.

These herbs can withstand mowing and heavy foot traffic: sweet violet, white clover, speedwell, thyme, plantain, moss, ajuga (bugleweed), shady evergreens, dwarf shrubs, wild strawberries, partridgeberry or wintergreen, English pot grass and Roman chamomile.

Now's the time for planning outside plantings as well as indoor projects for winter enjoyment.

Consider new vegetables

Next year's vegetable garden can include new veggies along with old favorites. Every year, seed companies feature new varieties that can add spirit and spunk. Tomatoes are America's most popular vegetable according to a recent survey. In addition to ever-popular "Beefsteak" and "Better Boy" varieties, a unique variety gaining in popularity is "Green Zebra." These tangy tomatoes are striped with bands of light and dark green. They're borne on vigorous vines and weigh three-to-four ounces each. This is an indeterminate, or climbing, tomato. Cages and stakes prevent tomatoes from taking over the garden and keep the fruit off the soil. Take care not to damage roots when you insert stakes. "Green Zebra" is ripe just as the green fruit starts getting a yellowish blush which accents the dark-green stripes. Pick as they ripen, using a slight twist or the wrist or sharp scissors to cut the stem. Enjoy these in salads – alone or mixed with red, yellow, orange, and pink varieties.

Among other interesting veggies is white eggplant. Try "Snowy," "Osteri" or "White Egg." White eggplant has a mild, non-bitter taste. It's great grilled, as an accompaniment to spicy sauces.

Heirloom variety yellow cucumbers are making a comeback. They mature about 60 days after seeding, with up to a six-week harvest period. Coco-colored bell peppers not only are prized for their unusual color but also for their shiny, smooth skin and crisp flavor. The green color ripens gradually to a rich chocolate color. Pick when fully mature – about 3 inches by 6 inches. Either cooked or raw, they maintain their brown color.

Another interesting vegetable is purple kohlrabi and other miniature cabbages.

Bring spring inside

Branches of many shrubs and some trees can be forced to flower indoors. Trees tend to be stubborn; their blossoms may not be as rewarding as those of shrubs. Others can add color and interest to indoor living areas during the winter. With proper timing, blooms can be had at Christmas.

These numbers indicate the approximate number of weeks they will take to flower after branches are brought indoors: Flowering almond-3; Deutzia-3; Flowering quince-4; Forsythia-1; Honeysuckle-3; Lilac-4; Oriental magnolia-3; Pussy willow-2; Spirea-4; Wisteria-3; Spicebush-2; Crab apple-4; Cherry-4; Cornelian dogwood-2; Horse chestnut-5; Red-twig dogwood-5; Redbud-2; Flowering dogwood-5; Redmaple-2.

It takes about three weeks for Honeysuckle to flower indoors.

Soil fixes

Heavy clay soil: add coarse sand — not beach sand — and compost.

Sandy soil: add humus, or aged manure, or sawdust with some extra nitrogen. Heavy clay-rich soil also can be added.

To improve soil, add ground bark, made from various tree barks. Decomposed leaves and other compost are excellent conditioners, adding nutrients and structure to soil. Lime raises the pH of acidic soil and helps loosen clay soil. Decayed manure is best if composted. It is a good conditioner. Sand will improve drainage in clay soil. Topsoil often is used with another amendment to replace existing soil.

Fertilizers are labeled to show the percentage by weight of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). Nitrogen is needed for leaf growth, phosphorus for root growth and fruit production. Potassium helps plants fight off diseases. Example: one 100-pound bag of 10-5-10 contains 10 pounds of nitrogen, 5 pounds of phosphorus, and 10 pounds of potassium. The rest is filler.

For more December gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of www.carolinacountry.com

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Sat. Dec. 13 2892 Reynolda Rd. Winston-Salem, NC	***Sun. Dec. 14*** 2100 N Main St. High Point, NC	***Sun. Dec. 14*** 3191 Peters Creek Pkwy. Winston-Salem, NC	***Mon. Dec. 15*** 4607 High Point Rd. Greensboro, NC	***Mon. Dec. 15*** 3443 Hillsborough Rd. Durham, NC	***Tue. Dec. 16*** 436 Daniels St. Raleigh, NC
Tue. Dec. 16 3064 Wake Forest Rd. Raleigh, NC	***Wed. Dec. 17*** 1000 Ryan Rd. Cary, NC	***Wed. Dec. 17*** 703 Greenville Blvd. Greenville, NC	***Thurs. Dec. 18*** 955 North Wesleyan Blvd. Rocky Mount, NC	***Thurs. Dec. 18*** 1241 Hargett St. Jacksonville, NC	***Fri. Dec. 19*** 3008 Raeford Rd. Fayetteville, NC

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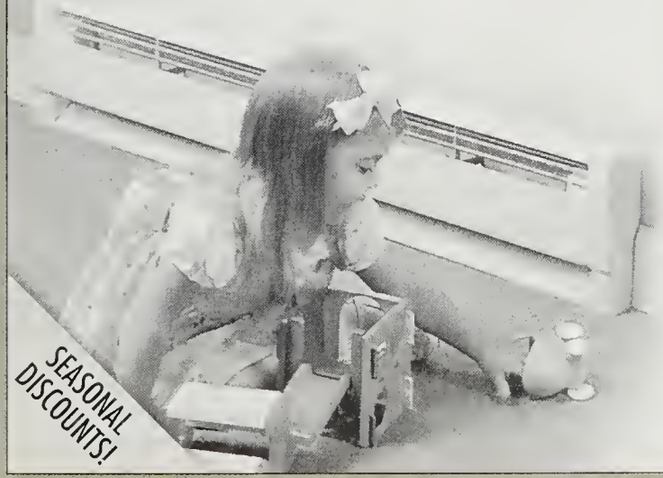

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- **Grant M.-** "With no insulation or storm windows, ***I saved 51% when changing from oil to Hydro-sil.***"
- **F. Smalley-** "***A company that advertises the truth*** saved me 50% compared to my gas heat. I found it hard to believe until my power bill came. Thanks a million!"

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3' 750 watts – Silicone	$179	
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All about new heat pumps

By James Dulley

Heat pumps condition the air during the winter, spring, summer and fall.

From both reliability and comfort standpoints, new heat pumps are an excellent and efficient source of heating and cooling. Installing one can cut utility bills by more than half when compared to your electric resistance furnace. The most efficient heat pumps can produce three dollars of heat for each one dollar on your utility bills.

With gas, propane and oil prices increasing, installing a heat pump may make good economic sense. Generally speaking, a heat pump can heat your home less expensively than a gas, propane or oil furnace.

A heat pump works as a central air conditioner when cooling. The cooled refrigerant flows through the coils in the air handler (blower) inside your house. This absorbs heat from the house air and pumps it to the outdoor unit. There, the hot refrigerant gives off heat to the hot summer air.

When in the heating mode, the heat pump works to warm the house by switching the reverse valve. This draws heat out of the cool outdoor air which, along with the compressor energy, heats the refrigerant. The hot refrigerant flows into the coils in your blower and heats your house air. In cold climates, as the weather gets colder, it is more difficult for the heat pump to draw heat from the outdoor air, so a backup system can help keep the house warm.

There are many new heat pump models and options to select from depending on your needs and your budget. The most efficient heat pumps are also the ones that provide the best heating comfort and indoor air quality. Since a heat pump is used year-round for conditioning the air, you will get the same benefits during the summer in the cooling mode as well.

Write for (instantly download-www.dulley.com) Update Bulletin No. 842 - buyer's guide of the 20 most efficient, comfortable heat pumps listing output level[illegible] compressor, [illegible] speeds, and [illegible] Please [illegible] business [illegible]

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The most efficient heat pumps use compressors that produce two output levels of heating and cooling. These heat pumps run at a low-output mode the majority of the time. Running a heat pump at the efficient low-heat output is an advantage because it runs for a longer time period each cycle. By running longer, it keeps room temperatures more constant and improves the indoor air quality. This is also helpful for allergy sufferers.

Most two-level heat pumps use a variable-speed blower motor in the indoor air handler. When the heat pump is running at low level, the variable-speed motor slows down. This reduces the noise level and eliminates the gust of cool air each time it starts. The motor slowly ramps up to speed so you barely hear it start. The slower blower speed also minimizes the common "chilly" feeling with a heat pump because the air coming out is warmer.

There are several two-level compressor technologies used. The newest designs are two-stage scroll compressors. These have few moving parts and eliminate the need for a valve and pistons that are used in standard compressors. They operate quietly and reliably. At the low level, they produce about 65 percent of the high-level heat output.

Other two-level compressors use conventional piston designs which at low level provide about 50 percent of the maximum output. In some two-cylinder designs, only one piston works when the compressor rotates in one direction, but both pistons work when it rotates in the opposite direction. Another design uses two smaller compressors and either one or both run.

For homeowners on a budget or if ultimate comfort is not a top priority, installing a single-output-level heat pump with a scroll compressor is a good choice. This is the type of heat pump I use in my own all-electric home. Even though it is not necessary, consider installing a variable-speed blower motor with this type of heat pump. It uses less electricity and, with the proper thermostat, it can greatly improve dehumidification and comfort during the summer.

Ozone-friendly R410A refrigerant is being used in many compressors today. Although you can still purchase efficient models that use older R-22 freon, and they are efficient, it would be wise to select a R410A model. Over the life of the unit, a R410A model should be less expensive to maintain.

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Cranberry Cheesecake

1 cup sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 cup cranberry juice
1½ cups fresh or frozen cranberries

CRUST:

1 cup graham cracker crumbs (about 14 squares)
3 tablespoons sugar
3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

FILLING:

4 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
4 eggs
1 cup eggnog*
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

In a saucepan, combine the first four ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook and stir over medium heat for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; set aside. In a small bowl, combine cracker crumbs and sugar; stir in butter. Press onto the bottom of a greased 9-inch springform pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add flour and beat well. Add eggs; beat on low just until combined. Add eggnog and vanilla; beat just until blended. Pour two-thirds of the filling over crust. Top with half of the cranberry mixture (cover and chill remaining cranberry mixture). Carefully spoon remaining filling on top. Bake at 325 degrees for 60-70 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Carefully run a knife around edge of pan to loosen; cool 1 hour longer. Refrigerate overnight. Remove sides of pan. Spoon remaining cranberry mixture over cheesecake.

Yield: 12 servings.

*Editor's note: This recipe was tested with commercially prepared eggnog.

Honey Pecan Triangles

2 teaspoons plus ½ cup butter (no substitutes), softened, divided
½ cup packed brown sugar
1 egg yolk
1½ cups all-purpose flour
TOPPING:
1 cup packed brown sugar
½ cup butter
¼ cup honey
½ cup whipping cream
4 cups chopped pecans

Line a 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking pan with foil; butter the foil with 2 teaspoons butter. In a mixing bowl, cream remaining butter with brown sugar. Add egg yolk; mix well. Gradually add flour. Press into prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

Meanwhile, in a saucepan, combine the brown sugar, butter and honey. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook and stir for 3 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in cream and pecans. Pour over crust. Bake for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Cool completely on a wire rack.

Use foil to lift the bars out of the pan and place on a cutting board. Carefully remove foil. Cut into 24 bars; cut each in half diagonally.

Yield: 4 dozen.

Chicken Crescent Wreath

2 tubes (8 ounces each) refrigerated crescent rolls
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Co-Jack cheese
⅔ cup condensed cream of chicken soup
½ cup chopped fresh broccoli
½ cup chopped sweet red pepper
¼ cup chopped water chestnuts
1 can (5 ounces) white chicken drained or ¾ cup cubed cooked chicken
2 tablespoons chopped onion

Arrange crescent rolls on a 12-inch pizza pan, forming a ring with pointed ends facing the outer edge of pan and wide ends overlapping. Combine the remaining ingredients; spoon over wide ends of rolls. Fold points over filling and tuck under wide ends (filling will be visible). Bake at 375 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown.

Yield: 6-8 servings.

Festive Ham 'n Cheese Spread

2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
½ cup sour cream
2 tablespoons dry onion soup mix
1 cup chopped fully cooked ham
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Swiss or cheddar cheese
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, sour cream and soup mix until smooth. Stir in ham and cheese. Form into a ball or spoon into a plastic wrap-lined mold. Roll in parsley or sprinkle parsley on top. Refrigerate.

Yield: 12-14 servings (about 4 cups).

Find more than 200 recipes and photos, and share your favorites recipes, at our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

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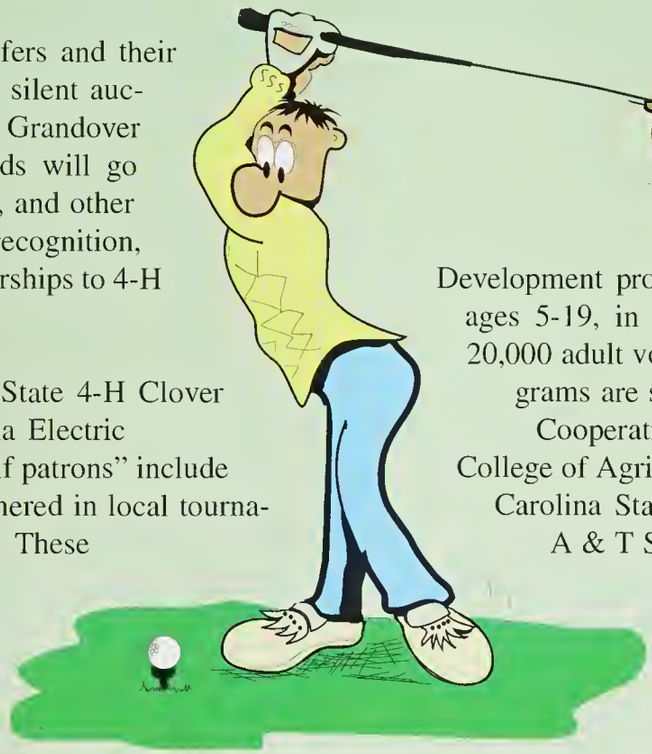
EMCs and 4-H tee off for youth

Over 60 golfers gathered at Grandover Golf Resort & Conference Center in Greensboro on Saturday, October 4, 2003 for the 7th Annual EMC State 4-H Clover Classic to raise funds for North Carolina's 4-H Youth Development program. This year, twelve county 4-H programs in partnership with the regional cooperatives held local tournaments that culminated in this statewide tournament, sponsored by the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC).

After a round of golf, the golfers and their guest relaxed and shopped the silent auction at an awards dinner at Grandover Resort in Greensboro. Proceeds will go towards 4-H Marketing efforts, and other awards programs that provide recognition, travel opportunities, and scholarships to 4-H members.



"Grand patron" for the EMC State 4-H Clover Classic was the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation. "Golf patrons" include regional cooperatives that partnered in local tournaments and corporate sponsors. These include Jones-Onslow EMC, Halifax EMC, Central EMC, Albemarle EMC, Piedmont EMC, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Union Power Cooperative and South River EMC. Other "golf patrons" include: Franklin Street Partners, Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough, L.L.P., NC 4-H Development Fund, North Carolina State University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and the NC Cooperative Extension Service.

The nine local tournaments have raised over $60,000 this year to help fund programs for the local counties. Counties use this money to help fund intra-state exchanges, offset project and curriculum costs, scholarships for camp, and many other programmatic needs. The counties participating in tournaments include Onslow, Halifax, Lee, Pasquotank, Union, Warren, Cumberland, Harnett, Sampson, Orange, Person, and Edgecombe. The first local tournament began in Halifax County over 13 years ago and these have become very successful partnerships and major fundraisers for local 4-H programs.

The North Carolina 4-H Youth Development program serves over 200,000 youth, ages 5-19, in North Carolina and utilizes over 20,000 adult volunteers annually. Local 4-H programs are supported with resources from the Cooperative Extension Service within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University and North Carolina A & T State University. 4-H has offices in all 100 counties plus the Cherokee Reservation.

For more information about the 4-H Youth Development Program, contact your local Cooperative Extension office or the state 4-H office at (919) 515-3242; mailing address: NCSU Box 7606, Raleigh, NC, 27695-7606.

This year Mike Finney was recognized at the dinner following the golf tournament. Mr. Finney was recognized for starting the first golf tournament partnership in Halifax County 14 years ago.

The team taking first place in the 7th Annual 4-H EMC Clover Classic Golf Tournament was Lee Electrical Construction. The team players were Jerry Lee, John Craven, Dale Ring, and Dianna Klingenschmidt.

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